East Timor needs RP help to build strong republic

STORY ON PAGE A2

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Monday, July 29, 2002 ★ 66 pages / 5 sections / vol.17 / no. 231 P15

Report or be deported

By Crispin R. Aranda

UNLESS you are a US citizen, not reporting can mean removal from the United States, even if you are a green card holder. Call it the Rip Van Winkle provision of US Immigration Law.

OK, so the other version could be that Sleeping Beauty got a kiss from Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS). The beauty, however,

REPORT/A18

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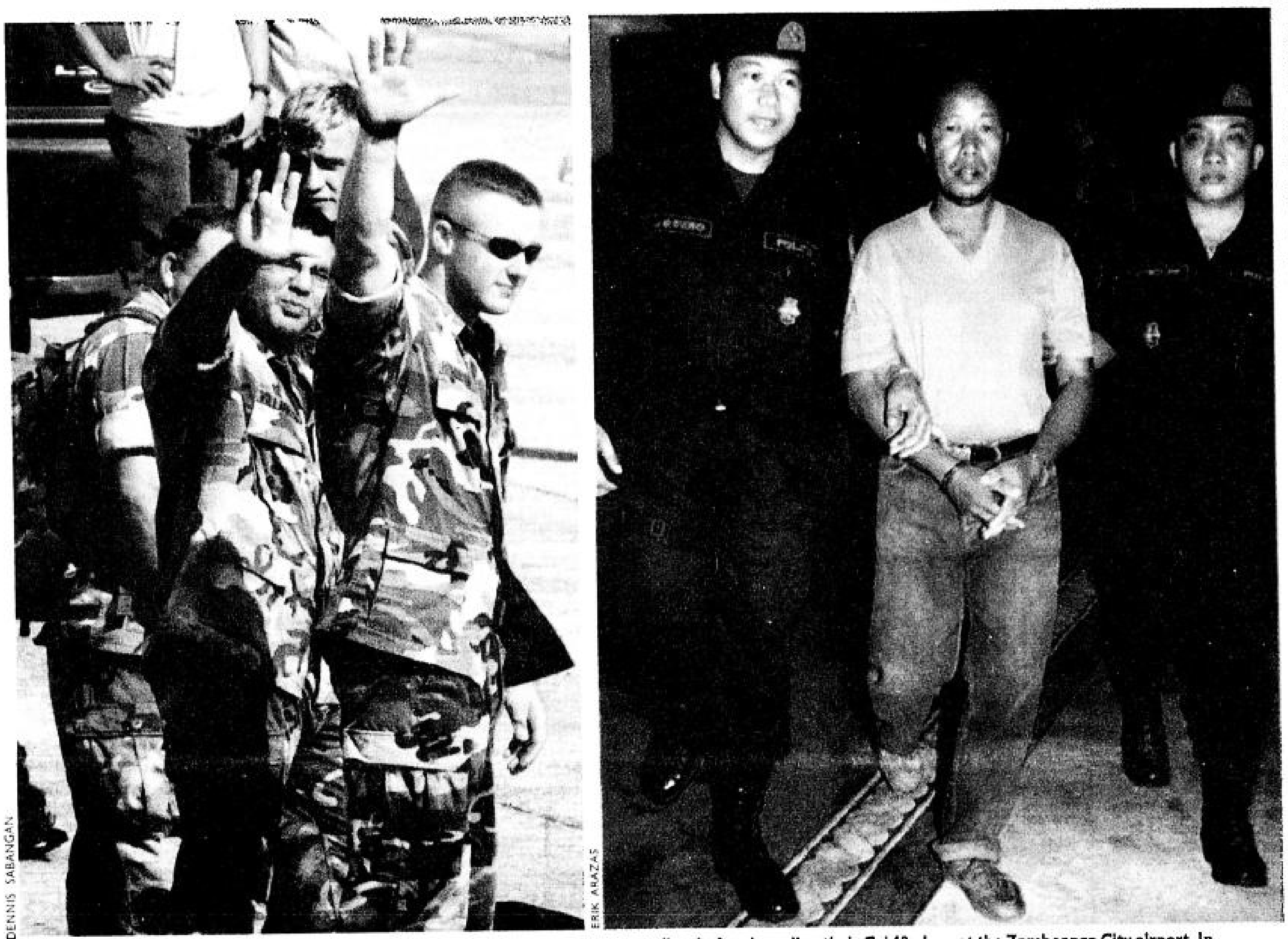
POWELL: Seeking to replicate Balikatan in region.

BASILAN SHOOTING

Powell faces political storm



DENNIS SABANGAN ERIK ARAZAS

AMERICAN soldiers (left photo), who took part in the Balikatan exercises, wave goodbye before boarding their C-140 plane at the Zamboanga City airport. In Malacañang (right photo), members of the Special Action Force escort a suspected Abu Sayyaf bandit, Yusop Ibrahim, for presentation to President Macapagal.

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk
and Julie S. Alipala
PDI Mindanao Bureau

A POLITICAL storm awaits US Secretary of State Colin Powell when he comes visiting this weekend, after party-list representatives accused an American soldier of shooting a civilian allegedly linked to the Abu Sayyaf and two militant groups said they had lined up a series of protest actions.

But in Guagua, Pampanga, President Macapagal-Arroyo said it was up to the "Communists" to prove their allegation that American Reggie Lane shot Buyong-buyong Isnijal during an operation on Wednesday.

"The burden of proof is on the accusers. And why are they not looking at the violations of the Abu Sayyaf?" the President said. Bayan Muna Representatives Satur Ocampo and Liza Maza had called for a congressional probe of the alleged shooting on Saturday.

Asked to specify whom she was referring to, Ms Macapagal replied: "The Communists."

US forces spokesperson Maj. Richard Sater said he did not know any American soldier by the name of Lane, but in Zamboanga City the chief of the Southern Command confirmed that "a black American" with the same name was indeed in Basilan on Wednesday, when Isnijal was arrested.

But Lt. Gen. Ernesto Carolina, the highest ranking officer in Mindanao, denied Lane was present in the operation.

Carolina said that Lane, like other American soldiers taking part in the Balikatan war exercises, was not allowed to directly participate in anti-Abu Sayyaf operations.

Lane, whom he described as "a very popular medic," had been "regularly and actively involved in medical, dental and civic actions in the said area," Carolina said yesterday.

He also took issue with Judaira Isnijal, wife of the suspect, who said she saw a "black" American shoot her husband. "I could not understand why extracted and dictated information such as that of Judaira could be taken as truth. Only a monkey will believe in that statement," he said.

Other militant groups took up the shooting issue yesterday.

"The first thing Powell must do upon his arrival is produce and surrender the US soldier and let him face criminal charges,"

POWELL/A18

US wants no reference to sovereignty in pact

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, Brunei—The United States is insisting that a proposed anti-terrorism treaty with Southeast Asian nations should not inhibit the possible use of US military forces in the region, a senior official said over the weekend.

The Asian diplomat, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said Washington wanted the draft of the treaty changed to drop a statement about respect for "the principles of sovereign equality, territorial integrity and . . . non-intervention in the domestic affairs of other states."

The provision had been inserted in the document during a meeting of senior officials from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations ahead of Wednesday's meeting of regional foreign ministers with US Secretary of State Colin Powell here.

On Friday, analysts from the conservative Heritage Foundation in Washington urged Powell to recommend replicating the RP-US Balikatan military exercises in the region.

But on Saturday, Southeast Asian officials reached a consensus addressing fears by Indonesia and Vietnam that the terrorism accord could lead to the basing of US ground troops in the region. They sought guarantees for national sovereignty and non-interference in internal affairs.

"I don't expect much of a problem, Asean is likely to accept the US counter-proposals," the diplomat said.

The declaration retains language supporting the United Nations Charter and international law, implicitly respecting national sovereignty.

US officials in Brunei had no immediate comment, saying the matter needed to be referred to Washington.

Powell will attend this week's

US/A18

GMA out to consolidate power, broaden domestic political base

By Amando Doronila

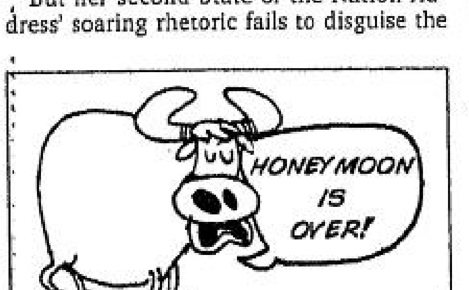
ANALYSIS

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo's project of building a "strong republic" is an agenda for consolidating her power and broadening her domestic political base ahead of the presidential election in 2004.

But her second State of the Nation Address' soaring rhetoric fails to disguise the domestic agenda of "empowering" her rather than rebuilding damaged political institutions, which are the cornerstones for building a strong State.

A close examination of her formula for a strong State discloses her domestic political agenda. The key elements are the "war" on criminal gangs and poverty; the plan to reduce electricity rates;

GMA/A6



HONEYMOON IS OVER!

Comelec officials quarreling again

By Blanche S. Rivera

FIRST, they approve generous car plans for each other. Then they stab each other in the back. Welcome to the politics of unity, Comelec-style.

A controversial resolution signed by

COMELEC/A20

Alvarez on way out as DENR chief, says Bunye

By Carlito Pablo and Gerald G. Lacuarta

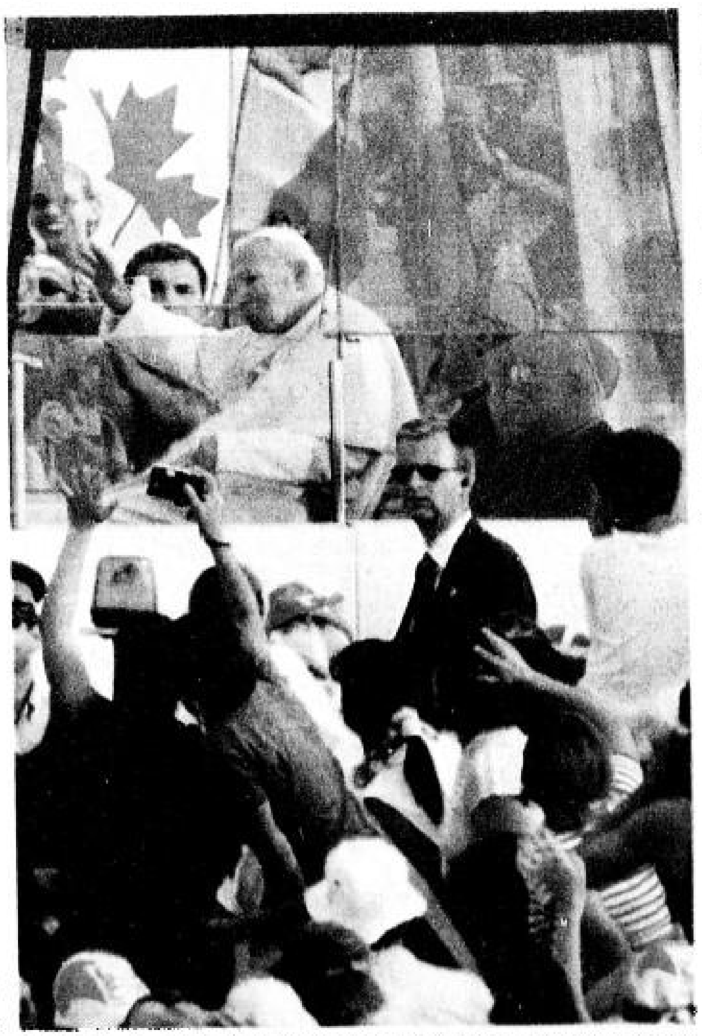
ENVIRONMENT Secretary Heherson Alvarez appears to be on the way out.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye yesterday said that this was the impression he got from President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"I don't remember the (President's) exact words, but in effect there was a hint to that effect," Bunye said.

Pressed on Ms Macapagal's supposed hints, Bunye said: "Yeah, she hinted that Secretary Alvarez is in effect, shall we say, on the way out." Alvarez has failed to get confirmation from the Commission on Ap-

ALVAREZ/A18



POPE John Paul II in Toronto: No technological revolution is possible without spirituality. - AFP

Pope: You can't build city of man without God

TORONTO—Facing hundreds of thousands of Catholic faithful holding candles in the dusk, Pope John Paul II urged young pilgrims on Saturday to become builders of a new civilization of freedom, peace and love.

The crowd of more than 500,000 at the World Youth Day vigil cheered him wildly, waving flags from every corner of the world and chanting his name in open affection.

Speaking in French and English from beneath a 48-meter cross, the 82-year-old Pontiff said the new millennium opened with two contrasting scenarios: the sight of pilgrims in Rome for the Holy Year, and the "terrible terrorist attack on New York, an image that is sort of an icon of a world in which hostility and hatred seem to prevail."

"The question that arises is dramatic: On what foundation must we build the new historical era that is emerging from the great transformations of the 20th century?" he asked.

His voice strong despite symptoms of Parkinson's disease and other health problems, John Paul asked whether it was enough to rely on the technological revolution without referring to an individual's

POPE/A20

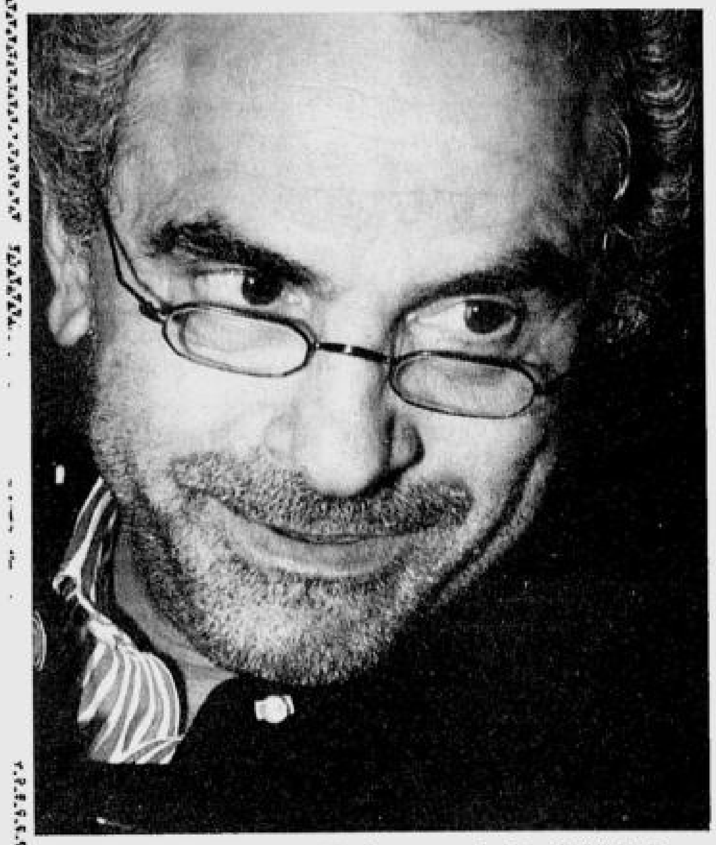
Second FRONT PAGE

TULONG PANG-EKONOMIYA AT KABUHAYAN NAMAN!

East Timor seeks RP aid to build truly free nation

Wanted: Experts in agriculture, public ad, doctors

By Donna S. Cueto


"NO more activists, please. We have enough already," joked Nobel Peace Laureate Jose Ramos Horta who visited Manila last week.
VAL HANDUMON

JOSE Ramos Horta, senior foreign minister of East Timor, the world's youngest democracy, has asked the Philippines for help in nurturing his country's newly acquired independence.

The Nobel Peace Laureate, one of his country's greatest freedom fighters, said last Wednesday his people needed Filipino experts in agriculture and public administration, as well as doctors and businessmen, to make East Timor truly free.

"No more activists, please," Horta jested. "We have enough already."

Horta was in town upon the invitation of the United Nations to attend Solidarity Night with convenors of the first Asia-Pacific Conference on East Timor (Apcet 1) in 1994.

The controversial conference was organized by the Philippine civil society movement to draw world attention to the small island's quest for independence from Indonesia.

"Filipinos knew about the struggle in East Timor more than any other country in the region," Horta said during last week's gathering. "You inspired us. You gave us hope in our darkest years."

Horta said that Filipino priests, nuns and doctors working in East Timor helped in their resistance movement. He recalled that Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin was the very first religious leader in the world to express support and sympathy for the people of East Timor. Sin sent a message of solidarity to East Timor Bishop Carlos Felipe Ximenes Bello, a Nobel Peace laureate like Horta. This was in 1984.

Apcet 1 was held at the University of the Philippines in June 1994, through the efforts of Philippine civil society groups and personalities, particularly Renato "RC" Constantino Jr., and Gus Miclat, now executive director of the Initiatives for International Development (IID). Participants included the Filipino convenors' counterparts in other Asean countries, and neighbors including Papua New Guinea.

Constantino recalled how the Philippine government tried to stop the conference, after a call from then Indonesian President Suharto. Constantino said President Fidel Ramos instructed National Security Adviser Joe Almonte to "handle the problem discreetly."

Almonte, Constantino recounted, pressed him not to push through with the conference. Then, he said, the government turned on the participants. Horta, the main speaker, was not allowed into the country. Upon the insistence of Malacañang, a temporary restraining order on the meeting was issued, but this was later lifted. This series of circumstances made the international media sit up and take notice.

Indonesia had forcibly annexed East Timor in a military operation that began in December 1975 and was marked with violence and bloodshed. Almost a third of East Timor's 800,000 population was wiped out from the bombings, executions and resulting starvation.

Constantino said the plight of the East Timorese was not immediately known to the world, on account of the "culture of silence and protectionism" among Southeast Asian leaders at the time. Apcet 1 was followed by two more conferences, in Kuala Lumpur and Bangkok, generating more world media attention.

The United Nations finally stepped in. On Aug. 30, 1999, the East Timorese voted in a referendum to free their country. Last April, they elected their first president, Xanana Gusmao, another freedom fighter.

"Much work is required," Horta said in last week's Apcet 1 reunion. "While we have achieved freedom, we still need help from the Philippines in the things that make a country truly independent."

Philippine investments would be very welcome, too, he said. "We hope that our friends here, the solidarity movement that was so effective in mobilizing the government, could now mobilize investors for East Timor."

Horta said he went recently to his hometown, where he found a young Ugandan agriculturist helping the people. "It could have been someone from the Philippines," he said, "one of the most important rice-producing countries in the world."

East Timorese and Filipinos are "natural allies," Horta pointed out.

Filipino businessmen led by Fernando Peña have formed a partnership with East Timorese businessmen, the East Timor-Philippine Business Council. Horta said President Macapagal-Arroyo had also assured him that the Philippines would soon set up an embassy in East Timor.

"We already have Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Korea, Japan, China, US, United Kingdom, Brazil, Portugal and Australia (embassies)," Horta said. "But the East Timorese feel that one is still missing—a Philippine embassy."

Again, he noted that the Philippines was the first to send soldiers for the United Nations Peacekeeping operations after East Timor was granted independence. In fact, he said, a Filipino, Lt. Gen. Jaime S. De los Santos, was the first head of the UN Peacekeeping Force.

De los Santos, who was also present during Solidarity Night, said Philippine troops even taught many East Timorese how to speak Filipino.

As for that "episode" in 1994, Horta said, he understood "perfectly well" why former President Ramos—and he wondered if they were distant cousins—had reacted the way he did to Apcet 1. Horta also said that Almonte, who the convenors said recently sent his regrets, did not have to apologize.

"In retrospect," Horta said, "the Philippine authorities at that time handled the situation with extraordinary diplomatic skills. It was not easy."

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No fireworks in Senate today…

By Rocky Nazareno

EXPECT no fireworks when senators return to work today.

But rest assured there will be, shortly.

Sen. Blas Ople is expected to deliver his "valedictory" this morning before relinquishing his Senate seat and assuming the post of Foreign Affairs Secretary.

Administration Senators Ralph Recto and Renato Cayetano are set to interpellate opposition Sen. Edgardo Angara on the counter-state of the nation address (Sona) that he delivered last Wednesday.

Fairly normal, as Senate sessions go.

However, tomorrow is going to be a problem, according to Sen. Joker Arroyo. Lines were likely to be drawn again, he said, when the senators decide whether or not to recognize the June 3 to 6 "rump session."

When Ople leaves his Senate seat, Arroyo said, the Senate composition would be reduced to 23—13 for the majority and 10 for the minority.

Arroyo drew up three possible scenarios this week:

The administration coalition, which has regained the majority, could approve the June 3 journal, in which Senate President Franklin Drilon declared the adjournment of session *sine die* for lack of quorum.

"That automatically invalidated, without saying so explicitly, all proceedings of the opposition's rump Senate," Arroyo explained. He acknowledged that this "would provoke a debate and opposition from the minority."

In the second scenario, the majority would simply refrain from presenting the June 3 journal for approval.

"This will indirectly recognize the validity and regularity of the proceedings on those four days of the rump opposition Senate," Arroyo said. "But this would not (be acceptable) for majority of the (current) majority Senate."

The third possibility is that the Senate would adopt the "Flavier formula."

Sen. Juan Flavier earlier suggested that the June 3 journal be approved, with the prior understanding that all bills and resolutions passed by the rump opposition Senate be re-passed by the present Senate.

"Majority senators would then work to modify (the laws passed), meaning, there would be selective re-passing," Arroyo said.

He believed there was likely to be little argument over the Anti-Chainsaw Act, the Free Patent Law and the law creating the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

However, Arroyo said, the Absentee Voting Bill regarding overseas Filipinos was bound to be problematic.

"The bill was half-baked," he said. "It lacked safeguards to prevent cheating." But even with six senators still wanting to interpellate and incorporate amendments, he said, the bill was passed last June 3.

Arroyo admitted that the rump session could not be simply disregarded. Nor, he said, could the June 3 journal that adjourned the session *sine die* be simply ratified.

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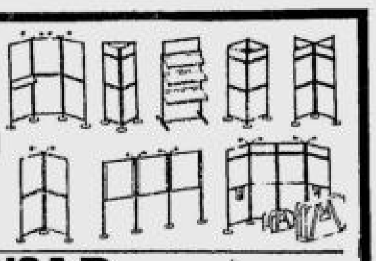
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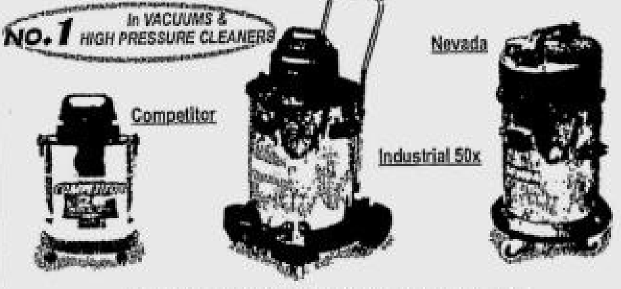
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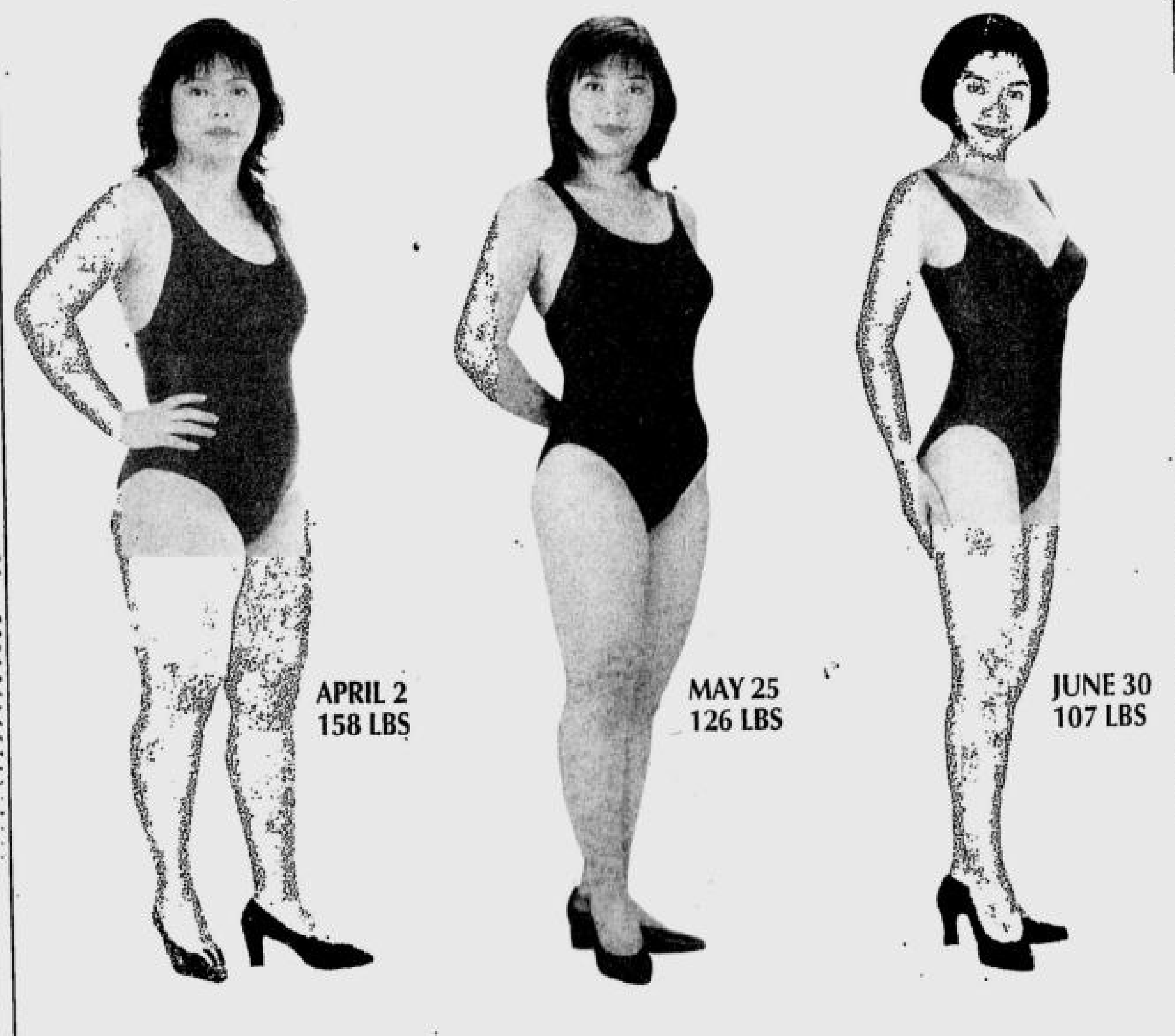

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MILF no longer on US list of terror groups–GMA

By Grace Cantal-Albasin
PDI Mindanao Bureau

MARAWI CITY—The United States has stricken the Moro Islamic Liberation Front off its list of terrorist organizations, an enthusiastic President Macapagal-Arroyo announced here on Saturday.

Speaking before some 300 Muslim clerics at the 3rd National Conference of the Ulama League of the Philippines, the President claimed a direct hand in the US decision.

Ms Macapacal said she had personally asked US President George Bush for MILF's removal from the roster, as her way of reciprocating the rebel group's isolation of criminal elements in its territories.

MILF earlier signed a memorandum of agreement with the government to help in the campaign against terrorism and criminality.

"I am very happy that the United States listened to the suggestion," Ms Macapagal said.

Eid Kabalu, MILF spokesperson, said the rebel group was just as delighted with the announcement.

"We knew the US would finally realize that the MILF is not a terrorist organization, and that we have no links with Osama bin Laden or the al-Qaida Network," Kabalu said.

Ms Macapagal was optimistic that the delisting would help in forwarding the agreement so that development, "which is part of my administration's bid for peace and a strong republic," would be realized.

"And moving forward with the talks," the President said, "we will now rehabilitate and develop the areas affected by the conflict in the region, including the erstwhile Camp Abubakar."

She said that to avoid resumption of hostilities between government forces and the MILF, local monitoring teams (LMTs) would be put up in at least 13 Mindanao provinces where the MILF claimed presence.

The LMT's first job, the President said, was to investigate the recent clash between soldiers and rebels in Poona Bayabao, Lanao del Sur, about two weeks ago. At least 10 persons died in the encounter, including a ranking rebel.

Ms Macapagal also cited her administration's pursuit of the 1996 peace agreement, signed between the Ramos administration and the Moro National Liberation Front.

"The agreement is being fully implemented," she said, adding that the integration of former MNLF members into the military and the police was almost completed.

Ms Macapagal said she was confident that the 1,500 MNLF integrees would be able to help keep peace in the Southern Philippines.

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Ateneo sets language, literacy course

THE ATENEO de Manila University English Department is offering a short course on "Social/Anthropological Approaches to Language, Literacy and Learning." Offered twice (Aug. 1-3 and Aug. 8-10), the course will run from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. daily. The guest lecturer is Dr. Craig Dicker, regional English language officer, US Embassy, Jakarta. He has a doctorate on Languages and Education from Columbia University. Topics include Learning as a Social Process; School Contexts as Interactional Constructions; Literacy as a Social Phenomenon; Cultural Differences as Obstacles to School Success; Research Methods for Conducting Social-Anthropological Research in Educational Settings; and School as a Societal Construct. Registration fee is P3,000. For particulars, contact Jossie Lacson, secretary of the Ateneo English Department, tel. nos. 426-6120 or 426-6001 ext 5310 and 5311 or email: <doe@admu.edu.ph>.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, July 29, 2002
St. Martha

1st Reading:	**1 Jn 4:7-16**
Gospel:	**Jn 11:19-27**

Many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to offer consolation at their brother's death.

When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him while Mary remained sitting in the house. And she said to Jesus, "If you had been here, my brother would not have died. But I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you." Jesus said, "Your brother will rise again."

Martha replied, "I know that he will rise in the resurrection, at the last day." But Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection; whoever believes in me, though he die, shall live. Whoever is alive by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

Martha then answered, "Yes, *Lord*, I have come to believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, he who is coming into the world."

Commentary

Which is more important in Christian life: prayer or work? Even if we do know that both prayer and work are important in our Christian life, don't you feel the inkling to prefer prayer to work as being more important?

In the past, we were taught that Christianity is more about prayer, meditation, and the after-life. It was presented as something unrelated to this world and totally detached from anything material. If this were so, then God would not need to become human.

Christianity is the integration of prayer and work, a balance of the two in the life of the Christian as s/he tries to lead a more human life. We pray that we may be energized for our work, and to work because we are moved by the power we receive in prayer.

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    - 1.6 Supply and installation of communications & information systems
2. Only general contractors who have completed works similar in type and scope as this project will be considered. Pre-qualification requirements covering company background and structure, evidence of capability to undertake this project, and a record of completed and on-going projects shall be available at the Embassy starting **July 22, 2002.** Pre-qualification documents must be submitted to the Embassy in specified format on or before **August 5, 2002,** 4:00 p.m. All late submissions shall be disqualified. The list of pre-qualified contractors shall be announced on **August 26, 2002.**
3. Bid documents will be made available only to pre-qualified bidders starting **August 26, 2002.** Bid documents may be procured from the Embassy through a non-refundable payment of one thousand US dollars (US$1,000). A briefing and pre-bid conference shall be conducted at the Embassy on **September 2, 2002,** 10:00 a.m.
4. Sealed bids in specified format must be submitted to the Embassy on or before **September 30, 2002,** 4:00 p.m. Bids shall be submitted together with a bank guarantee or bid bond equivalent to one percent (1%) of the bid amount. All late submissions shall be disqualified.
5. The Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia reserves the right to accept or reject any or all submissions at its sole discretion.

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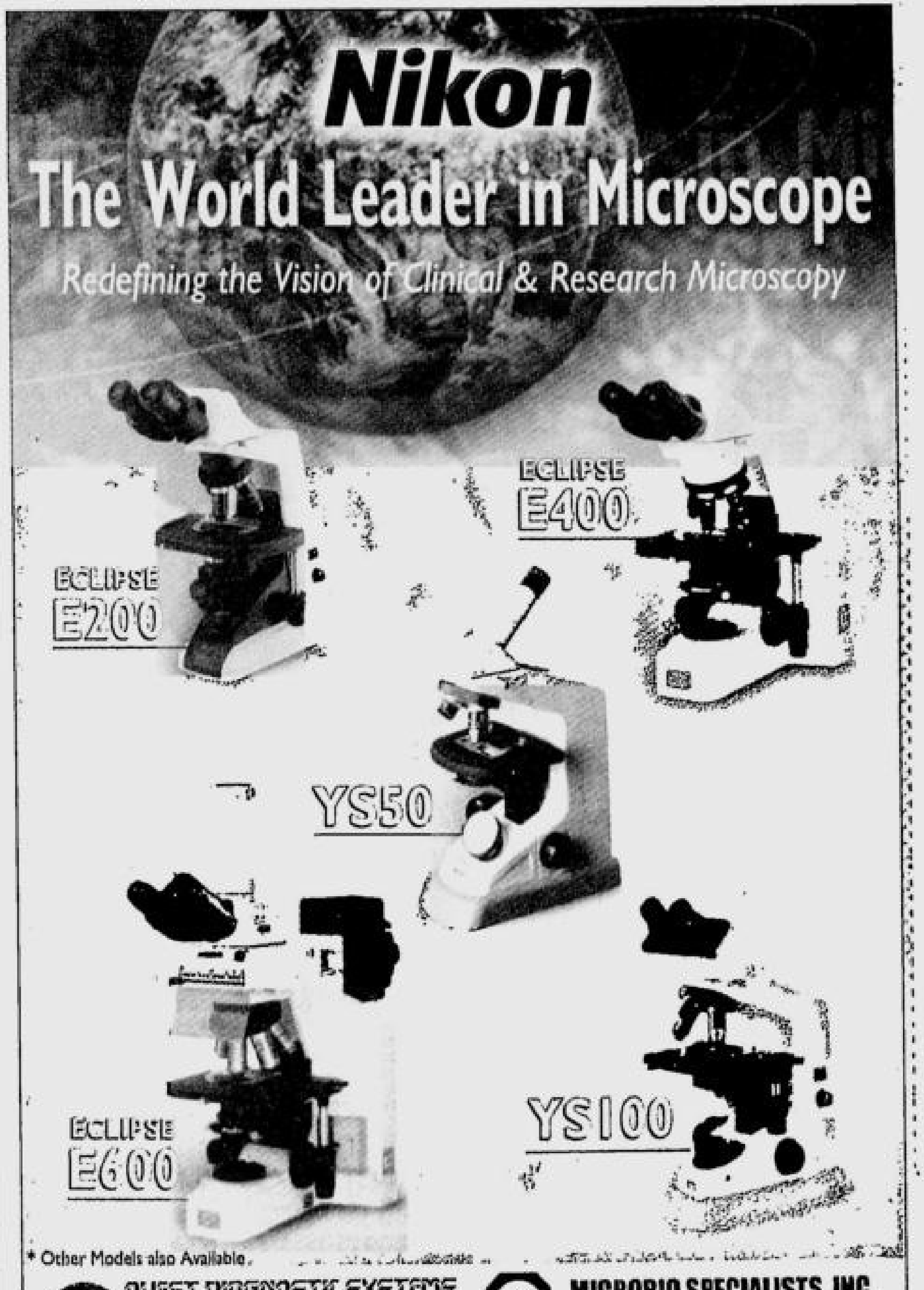
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‘No more Abu raids on resorts’

ZAMBOANGA CITY—The Abu Sayyaf guerrillas have been decimated and will not be able to stage another raid on an island resort as they did at the start of a kidnapping spree last year, the chief of military's Southern Command said yesterday.

"We are guaranteeing that," said Lt. Gen. Ernesto Carolina, chief of the Southern Command. "We are telling our investors, 'Come in already, do not be afraid, that will not happen anymore.'"

He said relentless military operations have reduced the number of guerrillas and their firearms "tremendously." He did not give any figures, but said last month that the number of guerrillas has dropped from more than 1,000 last year to about 200 now.

"They are in hiding and they are in small groups that render them incapable of undertaking large-scale terroristic activities," he said.

The al-Qaida-linked group seized three Americans and 17 Filipinos from the Dos Palmas resort off the island province of Palawan on May 27, 2001, the first in a string of abductions that victimized a total of 102 people.

The raid partly sparked the United States to send 1,000 US soldiers for a counterterrorism exercise to help Filipino soldiers better fight the guerrillas. The troops included 160 Green Beret trainers deployed to Basilan island, a base of the Abu Sayyaf, where the Dos Palmas victims were taken.

Some of the hostages escaped, others were released in exchange for large ransoms, and 18 were killed, including American Guillermo Sobero of Corona, California.

The guerrillas held their last three hostages—missionary couple Martin and Gracia Burnham, who were celebrating their 18th wedding anniversary at Dos Palmas, and Basilan nurse Ediborah Yap—for more than a year.

US-trained soldiers rescued Gracia Burnham on June 7, but her husband and Yap were killed. Two weeks later, soldiers aided by US surveillance, caught up with their abductors and reportedly killed three in a gunbattle at sea, including Abu Sayyaf spokesman Abu Sabaya.

A year before the Dos Palmas raid, Abu Sayyaf guerrillas also seized 20 people, about half of them Western tourists, from a Malaysian resort and brought them to hideouts in the jungles of Jolo in Sulu.

All but one of the hostages have been released in exchange for millions of dollars in ransom reportedly paid by Libya.

Both resort raids have severely undermined investor confidence on the Philippines and badly damaged tourism. **AP**

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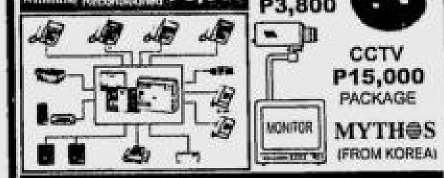

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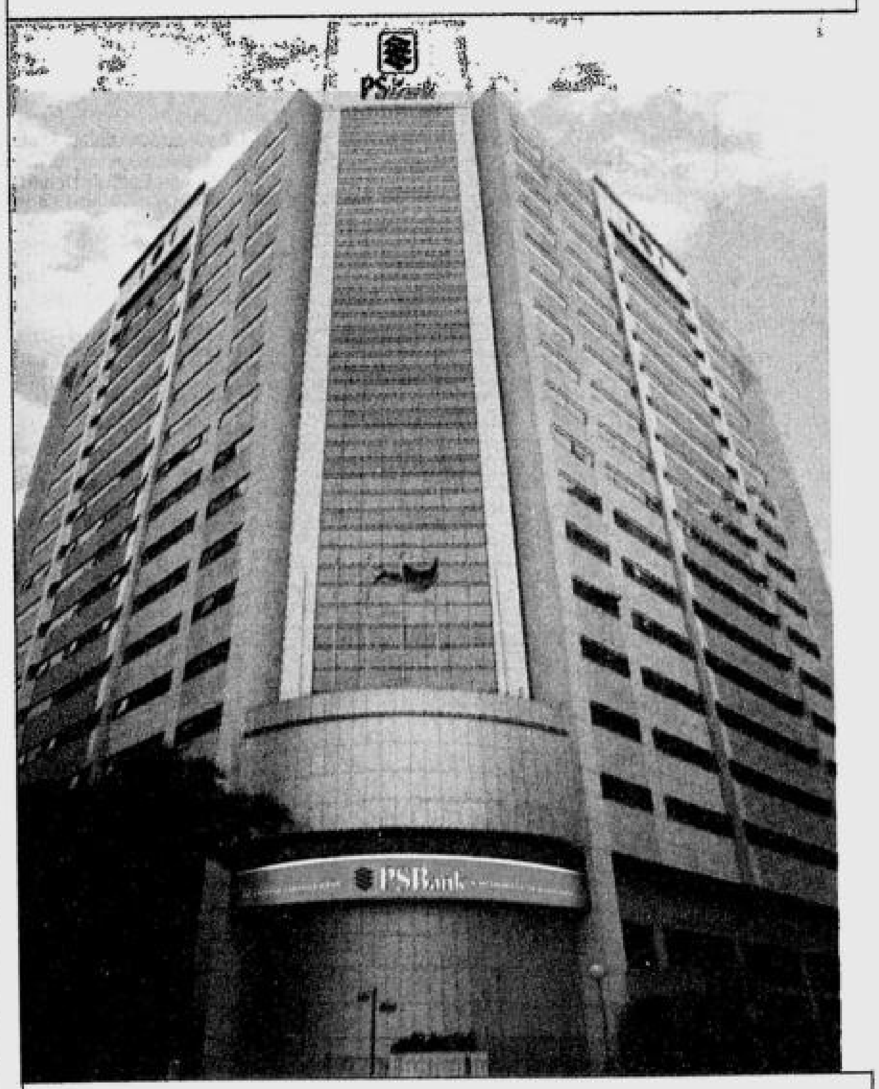

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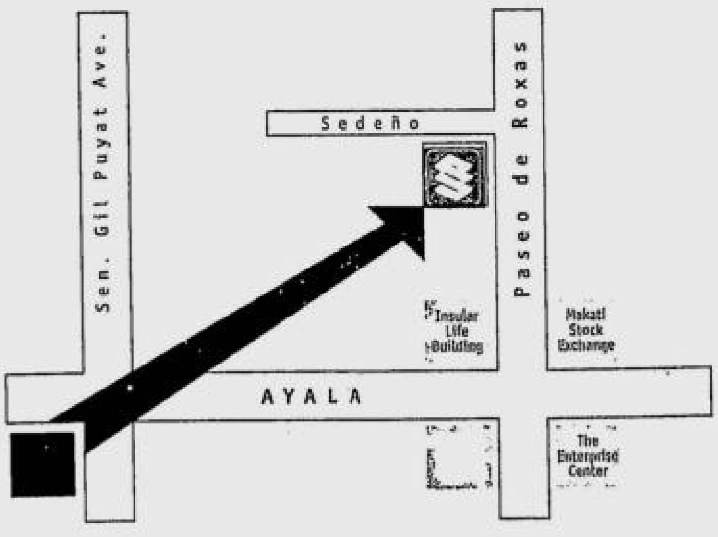

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GMA out to consolidate power, broaden domestic political base

From page A1

the control of foreign policy firmly tied to the US-led campaign against international terror; and the strengthening of economic recovery. These elements are closely interlinked, forming a larger mosaic.

When she vowed "to build a strong republic by breaking the back of terrorism and criminality," she was seeking to seize the law and order issue from opposition leaders who are preparing to challenge her on this seemingly intractable problem.

Her performance in cracking down on criminal syndicates—e.g., kidnap for ransom and drug trafficking—during the past year was insignificant.

Poverty alleviation received a strong accent in the second Sona. Ms Macapagal said the Philippines could be a "viable" player in the world economy if "we are to win the most fundamental war, the war against poverty."

Champion of poor

Stripped of its rhetoric, the war on poverty seeks to wrest from former President Joseph Estrada the mantle of being the champion of the poor.

It seeks to galvanize the poor behind her administration. So far, the poor have remained skeptical and are giving her a chance to deliver more tangible results than the administration's claims of success in the anti-poverty programs outlined in the first Sona.

High electricity rates were responsible for the plunge in the President's popularity. Her 10-point program for reducing electricity rates is clearly aimed at defusing unrest over the PPA (purchased power adjustment) charges.

The reduction, however, is likely to translate into wider fiscal deficits, and is therefore a mere palliative that tranquilizes the pain felt by the public.

Electricity rates have replaced rice prices as a sensitive political issue, which damaged past governments.

Manna from heaven

Foreign policy tied to the US-led global coalition against terror has proved to be manna from heaven. It has opened the door for the flow of aid from the United States, in exchange for Manila's close collaboration with Washington in hunting down leaders and members of the Abu Sayyaf, which is linked to the al-Qaida terrorist network.

The military success against the Abu Sayyaf may have strengthened the hands of the State in combating internal terrorism and banditry. It has validated the administration's policy of opening the country to expanding US military presence.

Albert del Rosario, Philippine ambassador to Washington, reported that the United States had earmarked $55 million in military financial assistance to the Philippines—more than half the amount asked by President George W. Bush from Congress. Additionally, Bush has asked for $15 million in economic support fund for Mindanao.

Because of the policy of alignment with the US war on terror, the Philippines is back in the strategic framework of US foreign policy after aid stopped following the closure of US military bases in the country in 1992.

The changing of the guard in the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) should therefore be viewed as a move to cement RP-US strategic security alliance, as well as a step toward breaking the impasse in the Senate.

The recruitment of Sen. Blas Ople to the Cabinet as foreign secretary did help break the impasse. But, from the larger perspective of foreign policy, the change removed obstacles to a more coherent foreign policy related to RP-US security cooperation.

Equally, it has sent a message to the United States that the President had consolidated her control over foreign policy following the resignation of Vice President Teofisto Guingona from the DFA.

Guingona's dissenting voice over the Balikatan exercises and expanding US military involvement in internal rebellions was a thorn on the side of the President.

MLSA

With the expected approval of the MLSA (Mutual Logistics Support Agreement) in time for the visit here next week of US Secretary of State Colin Powell, the government has taken the position that the MLSA is an executive agreement and not a treaty that requires Senate ratification.

At a press briefing prior to assuming office as foreign secretary, Ople toed the President's line and agreed with the interpretation of the US government that the MLSA did not contravene the constitutional ban on permanent basing of US military facilities in the Philippines.

Ople is demonstrating he is not going to be a dissonant voice in foreign policy. The administration can now speak with one voice when it comes to RP-US security relations. From his statements, Ople cannot be expected to rock the boat.

The President believes foreign policy is her strong suit. It is obvious that her close alignment with Bush on the campaign against terror is driven by her own strong instincts on foreign policy. She has demonstrated she does not brook policy deviation. and she is known not to take gratuitous advice gladly.

For domestic political reasons, control of foreign policy is the key to success in establishing the capacity of the State to crush rebellions and in extracting military and economic aid from the United States, which is now disposed to give aid, albeit to promote its own strategic interests.

Stature in military

The flow of military aid and the initial success of the campaign against the Abu Sayyaf raised the President's stature in the military.

The military is a major pillar of her post-Estrada coalition. Its withdrawal of support from Estrada was mainly responsible for the collapse of the Estrada administration. She needs the military and the police to shore up her administration against political destabilization.

The aid windfall from her foreign policy makes the military happy as the war materiel and funds have enhanced the military capacity to crush banditry and rebellion. More importantly, it has delivered new resources for the military modernization program.

The realignment of the DFA leadership with the President's foreign policy thrusts can therefore be better understood when viewed from the context of her efforts to build a new coalition that seeks to consolidate her power on several fronts.

Whether the expanding US military involvement in domestic security concerns will make the republic less dependent on the United States and enhance its autonomy from Washington is an important issue to consider.

What is clear is that mosaic of the new coalition enhances and consolidates the President's domestic power to favor her electoral chances. As to the building of a strong State, that remains to be seen.

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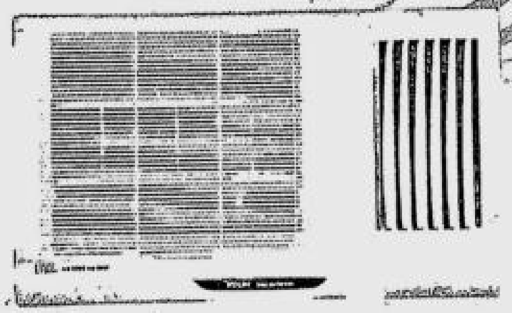

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1M Filipino children working as domestics

AN INCREASING number of children are being employed as domestic servants in dire conditions across Asia amid rapid modernization and poverty, a study presented at a forum on child labor in the Philippines showed yesterday.

While it remains difficult to accurately assess the number of children working as "modern day slaves," studies showed that there is a high number of youngsters working in major cities and urban centers across the region. (The Philippine Child Protection Law, R.A. 7610, defines children as those below 18 years old.)

Pre-Asian crisis figures said there were approximately 1.2 million child domestic workers in Bangladesh, one million in the Philippines, 1.5 million in Indonesia, 100,000 in Sri Lanka and 62,000 in Nepal.

Many of those were young females who are often abused, both sexually and physically, a study presented at the Manila forum on child domestic workers in Asia said.

FORMER child domestic workers urge Asian governments to stop child labor and protect child rights during a forum in Manila Sunday. AFP

"Asia is home to more than 60 percent of working children worldwide," the study said. "Child labor has increased. Abuses are more rampant and more hidden nowadays."

"The more scattered child laborers are, they are increasingly more difficult to protect. And finally, they tend to sacrifice their education in the face of constricting incomes and opportunities."

It blamed poverty as the number one cause of child domestic work, with globalization exacerbating the phenomenon.

As the Asian middle class grew in recent years the demand for "younger, more subservient household servants" also increased with once traditional housewives now seeking work outside their homes to help boost family incomes.

Less work in rural areas in the countryside due to the influx of cheap agriculture imports, and the sharp decline in prices of exported commodities, have also pressured "the younger members of families to search for work away from home to pitch in their cash remittances."

The survey said most parents had little choice but to let their children take on domestic work because it may guarantee regular employment, the study said.

But while some find homes where they are treated well as extensions of the family, most are forced into working 24 hours a day without holidays and are underpaid.

"Though a roof over the head is surely free, many child domestic workers reveal they were forced to eat leftovers, or compete for dog food, to drink liquid detergent mixed in juice or just swallow the emotional strain that goes with the work," the study said. "Help from outside is difficult' because they cannot go beyond closed doors. They are on their own."

Social Work Secretary Corazon Soliman, in her keynote address to the forum, urged Asian governments to eliminate child labor by passing legislation that would outlaw the practice and by ratifying conventions of the International Labor Organization.

She said it was an "anomaly" for parents to say they love their children and yet allow them to work elsewhere and suffer both emotional and physical abuses in exchange for money.

In the Philippines, she said, a proposed law that would outlaw child domestic work is being debated and pushed and other countries would do well to follow suit. *AFP*

Filipino maids in HK protest illegal recruitment charges

HONG KONG—Hong Kong domestic helpers are planning to take unscrupulous recruitment agencies to court over extortionate and illegal charges of up to 32 times the legal rate, a spokeswoman for the maids said Sunday.

Filipino migrant workers staged a rally in the financial district of Central to gather support and encourage more victims to come forward.

"We believe some 98 to 99 percent of all migrant workers in Hong Kong are victims of overcharging, both in the Philippines and in Hong Kong, and we are holding the rally to encourage more of them to come forward and file claims," said Cynthia Tellez, director of the Mission for Filipino Migrant workers.

The Philippine and Hong Kong government restrict charges imposed by recruitment agencies to 10 percent of the maids' first month's minimum salary of HK$3,670 (US$471).

"However, Hong Kong agencies charge between HK$2,000-12,000 while the average rate of overcharging in the Philippines is between P35,000-70,000 (HK$5,833-7,500)," said Tellez.

Most Filipino domestic helpers in Hong Kong are already deep in debt when they arrive in the territory, she said. *AFP*

Iloilo gov says Suplico not invited

LAKAS, through its Region VI chairman Ignacio Arroyo, "did not invite" Rep. Rolex Suplico (LDP) to join the ruling Lakas-NUCD in a meeting held on June 26, said Iloilo Gov. Niel D. Tupas, Sr. of Ugyon party.

Suplico "misunderstood me," said the governor in a press statement. Tupas said Suplico, his nephew who represents the 5th district of Iloilo, was not present at the meeting.

Earlier, Suplico said he rejected the offer to join Lakas and lambasted the administration for allegedly using the "carrot and stick" policy.

"What was discussed during my meeting with Mr. Arroyo and other Lakas party officials last June 26 was the likely coalition of Ugyon and Lakas in the province of Iloilo to support the administration programs and policies," Tupas said.

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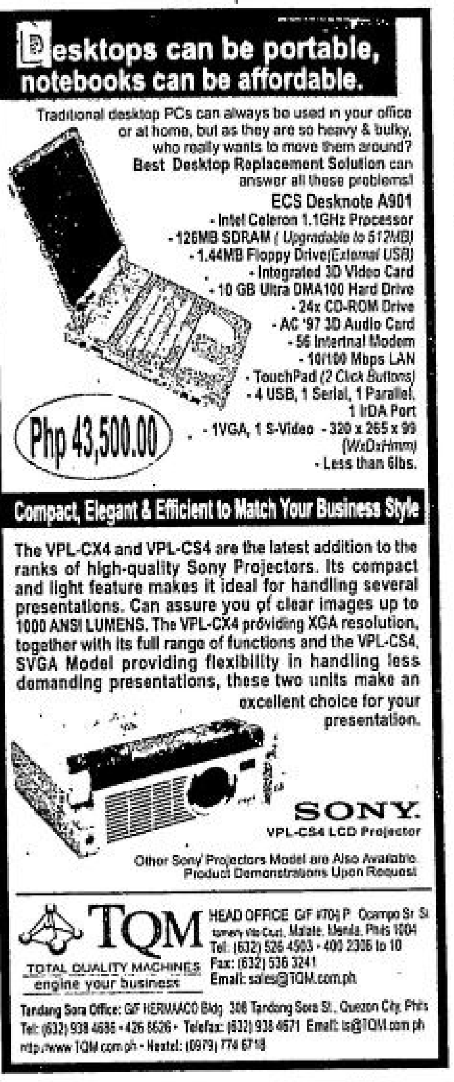

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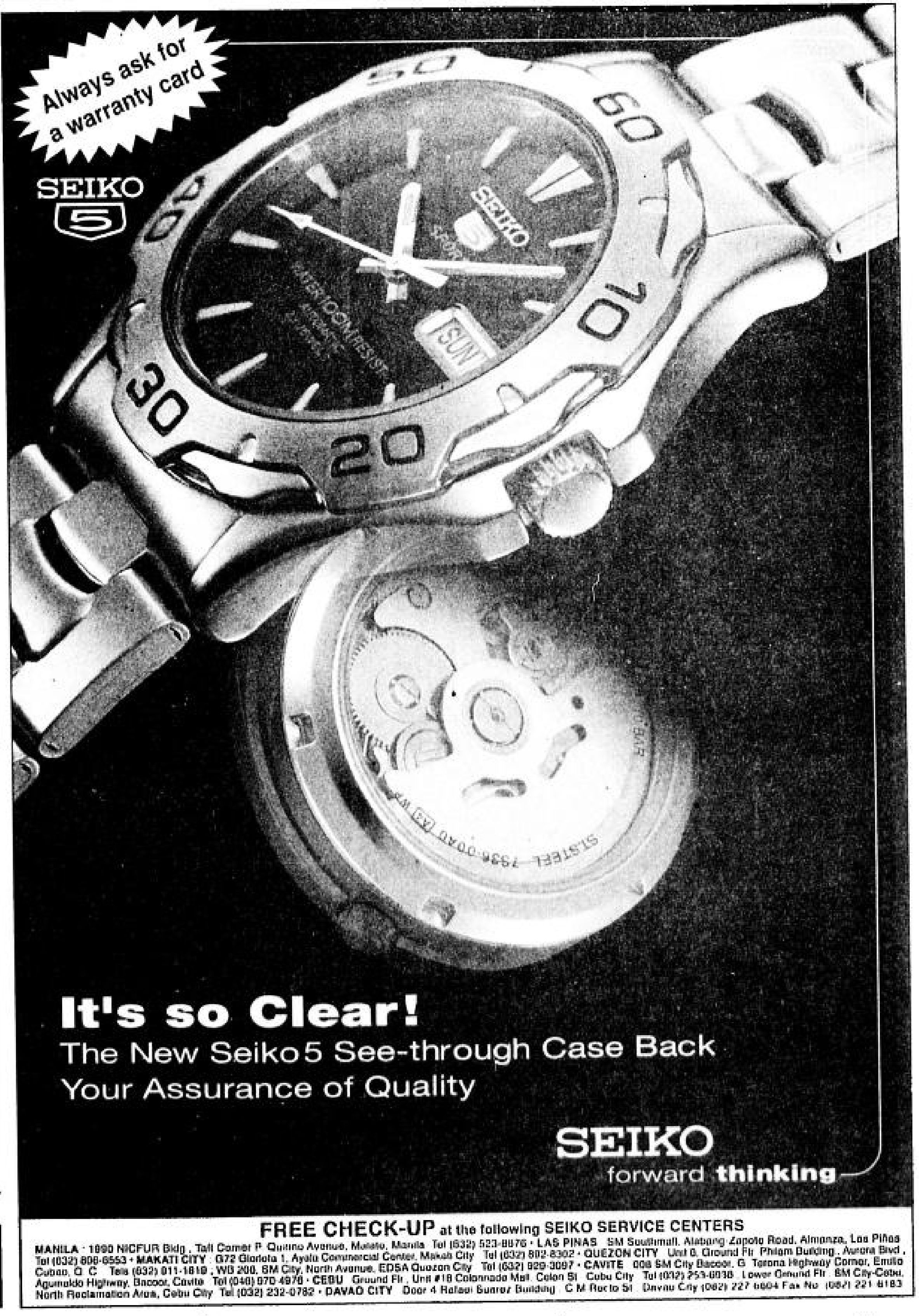

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CAPping the problem

EDITORIAL

THE NEWS that, for the second time in the last five years, the largest education pre-need company in the Philippines is suffering from a "trust fund deficiency" has sent a chill down the backbone of the economy: the country's middle class.

The College Assurance Plan counts an estimated 500,000 planholders, a tenth of all pre-need plan subscribers in the country. Trade Secretary Mar Roxas has described these five million subscribers as "Filipinos who are not wealthy and who have no access to more sophisticated, high-yielding investment instruments." By and large, these are the same people who make up the salaried class, and whose income taxes are withheld at the source: the very people who help make democratic governance possible.

It is only right, therefore, that government officials fall all over themselves to fix the problem. Last Friday, the Securities and Exchange Commission admitted that the problem actually goes beyond CAP. At least eight other pre-need companies have also incurred trust fund deficiencies. In all, the shortfall as of May 2002 amounts to about P4 billion.

The question is: What is the real nature of the problem?

The SEC must explain to an anxious public just what a "trust fund deficiency" means. Is it similar to the situation at the Social Security System, where the cost of benefits now outweigh the value of contributions? If SSS members do not approve an increase in contributions, the SSS may run out of money in 10 years or less. A difficult situation, but not (yet) dire. If this is the case, then the problem with CAP is serious, but hardly a crisis. The SEC must simply use everything in its power to force the company to infuse the needed capital, at the soonest reasonable time.

But if the problem is something else altogether, if CAP subscribers are in actual danger of not receiving the requisite funds in time for, say, the start of the second semester of the current academic year, then the matter is grave indeed. The statements issuing from the SEC, however, offer a sort of assurance that the problem remains manageable. In fact, the SEC has given the deficient companies until the end of the year to fix the problem—hardly a crisis-management initiative.

CAP's John Robert Sobrepeña also claims that his company's deficiency is in assets, not in cash. And that a finan-cing arrangement, currently under study by the SEC, is in the works. Loyal CAP planholders have also been ringing the SEC in large numbers, to express their satisfaction with the company.

From where we sit, it seems the real problem is not financial but regulatory. CAP has been reported as a heavy investor in Fil-Estate Land Inc., whose ventures include the Camp John Hay development and the Metro Railway Transit system. All three businesses are associated with the Sobrepeña family. Perhaps there should be a limit to how much a pre-need company's trust fund can invest in affiliated companies.

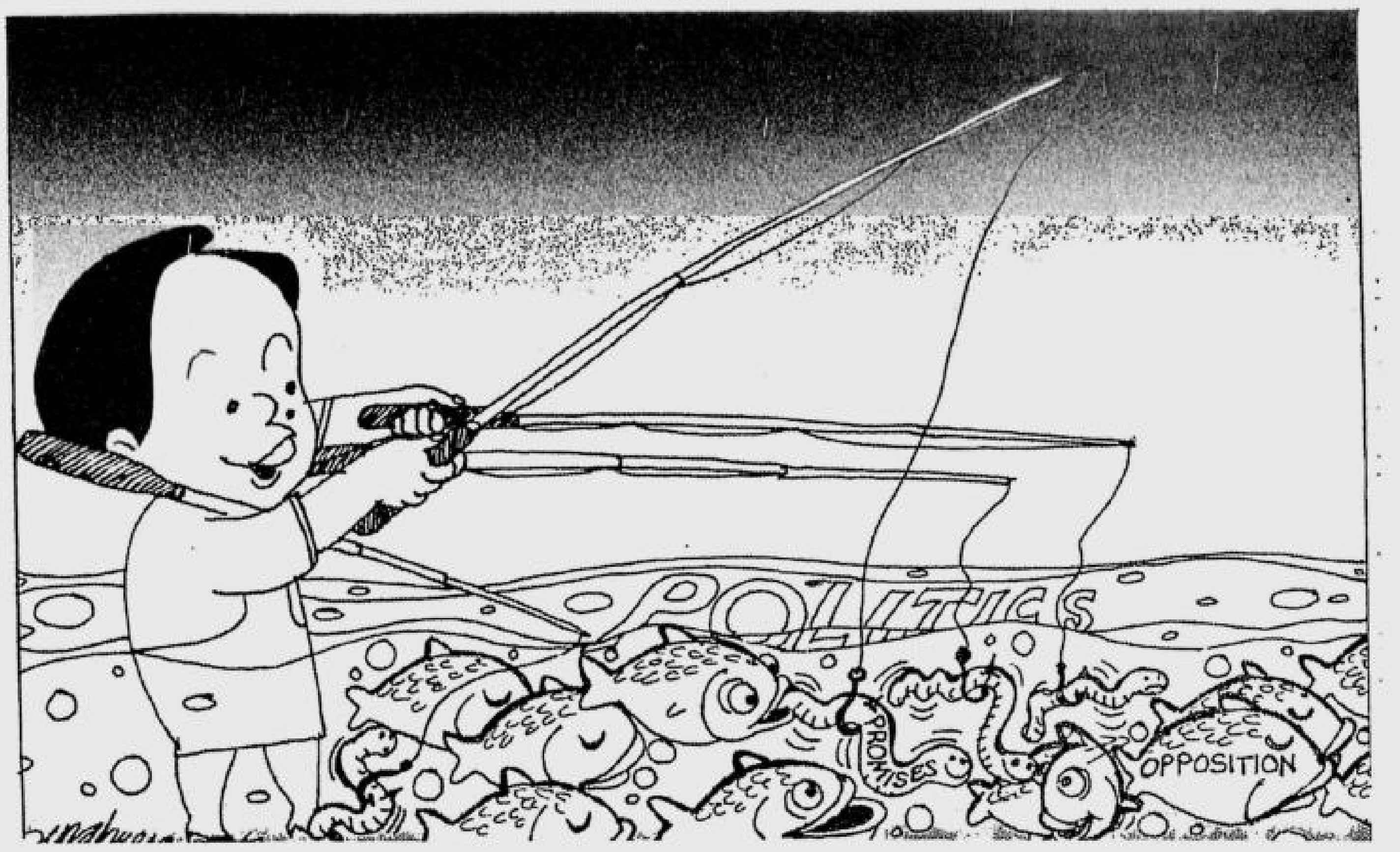
"Pre-need companies that invest in ventures owned or managed by affiliates and stockholders' relatives are comparable to Dosri accounts of banks," Roxas said last Friday, referring to the limit on loans that banks can offer its directors, officers, staff and related interests.

Several legislators have called for the transfer of supervisory responsibilities for the pre-need industry from the SEC to the Insurance Commission. The transfer is based on two related ideas: that pre-need packages such as education and health maintenance plans are a form of insurance, and that the Commission would be in a better position to weigh the risks and institute the regulations.

We support this proposal, as well as the proposal for pre-need companies to hold at least 10 percent of their trust fund as a liquidity reserve. These will help create a more disciplined business environment.

In the end, however, it is up to the individual subscriber to be responsible for his investment decisions: to read the fine print, as University of Asia and the Pacific economist Edwin Pineda suggests; to check the actuarial assumptions of the plan either by himself or with the help of a trained and trusted professional.

Stricter regulations, a more vigilant government watchdog, a better informed public: all these will play a part. But as in the case of the banking industry itself—the point of reference common to all proposed pre-need legislation—there are no guarantees.



A Jekyll and Hyde in the government

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

"MR. President, the fact is well known that President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has intervened vigorously and consistently to influence the election of a Senate president. She has moved heaven and earth to install her own surrogate in the rostrum of the Senate. She has frankly subverted the independence of the legislature, an independent and coequal branch of the government. We are therefore faced with the prospect of a captive Senate dancing to the tune of Malacañang…

"Mr. President, truly this is one of those moments that try men's souls. Today we are asked to surrender the leadership of the Senate to Malacañang. If this happens, this glorious institution once served by the likes of Manuel Quezon, Sergio Osmeña, Claro M. Recto, Jose P. Laurel, Jose W. Diokno, Lorenzo Tañada, Benigno Aquino Jr., Jovito Salonga and other luminous figures will be just another adjunct of Malacañang, and the whole country itself, the flag-bearer of democratic values in Asia, may soon be reduced to the incipient stages of a banana republic."

Guess who said that? *Sirit?* Why, nobody else than the incoming foreign secretary, Blas F. Ople. He said that at the opening of the 12th Congress on July 23, 2001.

This is the same Ople who has gladly allowed—nay, conspired with—Malacañang to subvert the independence of the Senate of which he was a member, by resigning from his opposition party and from the Senate and accepting a Cabinet position in the administration. How easily he has forgotten. How different are the two Oples: one who said the above paragraphs and the other who eagerly deserted his old friends in the Senate and lay with the enemy in Malacañang with his legs open. One is Dr. Jekyll and the other is Mr. Hyde.

What, in the first place, has he done that he should be chosen to head the DFA over scores of veteran and accomplished career diplomats? What has he done during his long years in the Senate? How many bills of his have been passed? *Buti pa si* Erap, *meron isang* carabao bill, *pero si* Ople *wala*. How many debates in the Senate has he participated in? How many bills has he helped craft into meaningful laws? *Buti pa si* Ramon Revilla, he has no pretensions of being an intellectual. He is content to be a member of the committee on silence. But another member of that committee, Ople, postures as something else. He breaks his week-long silence on the Senate floor with a press conference every Friday during which he comments on all the issues. The media lap it up and he makes the newspapers and the television newscasts the next day. This is mistaken for accomplishment. But look at the record of Ople in the Senate and you will discover that beneath all the talk and hot air, there is absolutely nothing else.

As for the President, she has admitted participation in subverting the independence of the Senate by enticing and seducing Senators Ople and Robert Jaworski to desert the positions to which the people elected them and join her administration. For what? For patriotic purposes? No! So that administration senators can continue to control the Senate and do what they want.

She has subverted not only the independence of the Senate, she has also subverted the people's will. The people voted for 12 administration senators and 12 opposition senators. They wanted it that way. They want to maintain the system of checks and balances. You make the balance tilt one way so much and the majority rides roughshod over the minority. Balance prevents abuses. Bills will still be passed but only if they are truly good for the nation only after going through a fine-toothed comb. How many laws do we have now that are flawed (the Lina Law, the Oil Deregulation Law and the Epira are just a few examples) because they were rushed through a legislature controlled by the administration?

Worse, our President of the nation has admitted that she lied to the people. After telling the people repeatedly that she will not interfere in the power struggle in the Senate, she finally admitted doing just that, seducing both Ople and Jaworski to come on over to her house. Perhaps she expected to be admired as a smart seducer and a clever manipulator, but she only exposed herself as a dishonest President who has consistently lied to the people.

* * *

Buti pa si Sen. Rodolfo Biazon; being a former soldier, he knows that desertion is a high crime and that deserters are routinely shot. So he has not followed the footsteps of his two colleagues, Ople and Jaworski, and refused to desert his opposition pals in spite of the temptations and enticements dangled by the administration.

He told newsmen at the Kapihan sa Sulo that he had been continually courted by the administration since the opening of Congress. He said he was offered the chairmanship of the committee on national defense; other sweeteners were added as they went along. He confessed that he really covets that chairmanship but that he did not accept because of two conditions tied to the offer: that he would abandon the opposition and join the administration forces in the Senate, and that he himself agree at all times to all the policies of the administration. He could not accept them, he said, especially the second one, because it subverts the independence of the Senate.

Biazon holds dear the independence of the legislature. That's what makes democracy work. That independence Ople also held dear-but only on July 23, 2001. He doesn't anymore.

The real opposition

There's the Rub

Conrado de Quiros

A FRIEND of mine actually told me a couple of weeks back, not entirely in jest, that the person he would most like to hear deliver the State of the Nation Address was not the President but the Vice President. Teofisto Guingona had just been sacked as foreign secretary, and that, my friend said, qualified him eminently to speak on national affairs. He was sacked because he wanted foreign policy to reflect national interest, not foreign interest. That made him the highest public official to know what the true state of the nation was.

My friend said Guingona would particularly do well to mold his "Sona" along the lines of his "I Accuse" speech a couple of years ago. The latter of course, the title of which was taken from Emile Zola's famous indictment of the French government for trying to protect military honor by condemning an innocent captain named Dreyfus, was his speech in the Senate calling for the impeachment of one Joseph Estrada. My friend thought a "L'accuse" speech that hewed more closely to Zola's original theme of one innocent man being sacrificed to save specious national honor would be even more apt today, coming from the lips of the victim himself.

Well, Guingona did not deliver that speech. But he delivered one last Friday night at the Celebrity Club that was not unlike it. He delivered an indictment of the government's economic thrust and offered an alternative for it. As foreign secretary he wanted this country's foreign policy to advance the people's interests first and last, as Vice President he now wants this country's economic policy to advance the people's interest first and last. Fortunately, no one can fire him from his second post.

The President's professed goal, says Guingona, is to eradicate poverty. But how does she want to do this? With foreign investments, exports and free trade. That is all very well except for several things.

We say we need foreign investments desperately, yet we have an official development assistance of $15.2 billion and foreign loans of $50 billion. Foreign investments themselves are fine, but not when they are mere enclaves that do not link up the economy and, worse, that dislocate people from their livelihood. Not when they are like the US electronic firms that will have nothing to do with perfectly capable local computer manufacturers and assemblers but merely export chips for computers that come back to this country as imports, courtesy of IBM. Which is the case today.

We want to export more, but in fact we import more than we export. Even in exports, we import as much as 90 percent of their inputs. How can we compete with other countries even in agricultural products, which are our main export, when other countries subsidize them heavily? The United States itself subsidizes (R and D, infrastructure, payment to farmers of fertilizers and seed costs) its agriculture by $20 billion, Japan by $30 billion and the EU by $60 billion. Our subsidy? Courtesy of the presumed wisdom of liberalization, deregulation and privatization: zero.

And we eagerly throw ourselves into the arms of free trade though we now have three million Filipinos unemployed, six million underemployed and eight million struggling to eke a living abroad. Indeed, though American economists themselves, like Joseph Stiglitz, a professor of Columbia, candidly admit that "globalization is an unfair game with the rules written by rich industrial countries for rich industrial countries."

What is the alternative?

Self-reliance. Not by isolating ourselves from global currents but by preparing ourselves for global currents. By empowering the LGUs who are in the best position to know what economic activities their areas should be specializing in. By linking up the various local economies to the national one first before exposing them to the global one. Basilan for example can provide Bukidnon with rubber which it can process into shoes and other goods to sell to Basilan, quite apart from the rest of the country and the world. And above all, by believing in the Filipino once more. Enough of the whining and despair.

I leave the reader to look at the details of Guingona's proposition, which I hope will come out in today's newspapers. All this of course is what global civil society, quite apart from local nationalists, has been saying all along. A message the WTO received quite forcefully in Seattle early last year. I am glad at least it has found a spokesperson in the second highest official of the land. The second highest by law, though by reason easily the highest official of the land: He earned his right to glory, Gloria did not. He himself is the best argument for his cause, particularly when he cajoles us to stop crying over spilt milk, there is no lack of things we can do amid adversity. He has restored my faith in the Filipino. (Ah, but life takes the strangest twists!)

We want an opposition, there is one. Forget the so-called opposition in the Senate who are merely opposed to not being in Malacañang themselves. Forget the so-called opposition in the House of Representatives who are merely opposed to not running the show themselves. They will always be losers. Or they will become winners only by making this country a loser. You want someone who is opposed to the folly of our descent into a newfound dependency, if not into the status of a once and future American colony, there is Guingona. You want someone who is opposed to the even bigger folly of hurling ourselves from the cliff of WTO-sponsored "globalization" simply because other lemmings are doing so, there is Guingona. He is the real opposition.

He deserves our support. He can count on mine.

* * *

Comments to dequiros@vasia.com

Bohol's many splendored delights

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

I'M glad to note that new Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye was quoted as saying that the President will not be pressured into signing the controversial Mutual Logistics Support Agreement (MLSA) as she feels she is not ready yet. Bunye was quoted as saying that GMA is not in a hurry to sign it and wants more time to study it. This is well and good as there are apprehensions that the signing would be steamrolled after an unnamed US official was said to have hinted that the flow of military aid to the Philippines would be affected if the MLSA were not signed soonest. There seems particular concern that it is signed before the visit of US Secretary of State Colin Powell later this week. The pressure, however, has created a negative feeling here even among people who are not anti-American, which should not be allowed to prosper.

I remember reading about an American official expressing surprise at the controversy that the MLSA has kicked here, when nothing of the sort has attended the signing of similar documents in some 32 other countries. What that US official doesn't realize is the interesting reaction of Filipinos toward American policy—it's the love-hate relationship operating between the former colonial power and the colonized people once again. As Senate President Franklin Drilon put it to me not too long ago, Filipinos may be overwhelmingly pro-American; but when the Kano tends to be too pushy, then the Pinoy reacts negatively. I think this is very evident in the MLSA. Transparency will go a long way.

* * *

I spent two and a half days in Bohol the other weekend to participate in the 10-day Sandugo sa Kalinaw 2002 that celebrated the 437th anniversary of the blood compact between Datu Sikatuna and Spanish conquistador Miguel Lopez de Legaspi, and to judge in the DENR-sponsored "Gallery of the Sea" sail-painting contest. It was an event-studded 10 days that featured an international street-dancing festival graced by President Macapagal, as well as the first RP international guitar festival and regional competition that drew the likes of New York-based Filipino classical guitarist and conductor Michael Dadap and distinguished German folk guitarists Bertholt and Gisela Lied, and the UP, UST and PWU Guitar Ensembles. Then there was also the first International Directors' Cut Film Festival in the Visayas that drew bigshots like directors Carlitos Siguion Reyna, Mario de los Reyes and Gil Portes and producer Mother Lily of Regal Films. There were the Bohol Bigiw regatta and a visual arts festival, while youths from many lands held eco-cultural peace camps where they interacted in drama and dance and environmental conservation. There was even a guitarmakers' fair.

* * *

There were all kinds of concerts everywhere, including at Alona Beach. But the one I enjoyed most was the back-to-back concert last Saturday evening, July 20, featuring Michael Dadap and Bertholt and Gisela Lied at the well-preserved Dawis Church; their performance was enhanced by the added attraction of nationalist composer and conductor Jerry Dadap leading the Andres Bonifacio Chorale Group in patriotic songs. The chorale's rendition of "Pilipinas Kong Mahal" was so soul-stirring that the audience, led by Dawis Mayor Victor Bolos, instinctively rose to its feet and joined them. Michael and Jerry Dadap are considered Boholanos, for while their parents are from Hinunangan, Southern Leyte, their maternal grandparents from the Amper family come from Anda, Bohol.

The grand finale of all the concerts was an international music concert for peace at the cultural center of Tagbilaran City, where one of the main attractions was a song and dance tableau put up by Cecile Guidote-Alvarez's Earthsavers Dreams Academy kids, a select group of physically and economically handicapped talents who interacted with the Bohol Metropolitan Teen Theater League.

* * *

As I immersed myself in the frenzied eco-touristic and cultural activities in the island, I got to thinking, wow, if only all our provinces have the dynamic cooperation displayed by the various groups that launched the Sandugo Festival in Bohol, we would go a long way. Credit must go to the Boholano Foreign Friendship Foundation Inc. (BFFFI), led by its president, Hans Schoof, a German national married to a Boholana, and its executive director, Lutgardo Labad, who carried the entire 10 days of activities despite near-collapse physically; the Boholano Sandugo Foundation, the provincial government led by Gov. Enrico Aumentado and provincial administrator Antonio Amora Jr.; the DENR, DILG and DepEd; various NGOs as well as participating hotels and resorts on Alona Beach in Panglao Island; specifically I must pay credit to the new Alona Palm Beach Resort, owned by a Swiss architect, where we judges in the DENR's sail-painting contest were billeted for two nights, and the Alona Kew Resort, which provided the buffet lunch during the judging event.

* * *

In between the cultural events our group was taken by the DENR official in Tagbilaran, Jovencio D. Taer, to some tourist spots in Bohol. After Mass last Sunday, July 21, at the Loboc Church, one of 16 churches among Bohol's 40 or so that have been remarkably preserved, with their frescoes and all, we dropped in at a nursery for the tarsier, the world's smallest monkey, and then took a half-hour cruise down the very clean Loboc River aboard one of those tourist boats where one could have breakfast or lunch, complete with singing guitarists. From there we drove through the winding roads inside the DENR's watershed reservation to admire the forests and then to the famed Chocolate Hills. We also found time to sample the basket-weaving for which the island is famous, while my son went diving in Panglao, a diver's haven. Bohol offers such many-splendored delights that it should be a must in anyone's tourist calendar.

The unending problems of civil registration

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Datu Amir Baraguir

HOW does it feel to be officially non-existent? To many Muslim Filipinos, it matters little. It only becomes a problem when one applies for an overseas job or seeks to fulfill his obligatory pilgrimage to Mecca and needs a passport. It also presents a difficulty when one has to execute deeds of sale for buying or selling real estate. This is also true in the case of other official transactions where the identity of each party is necessary.

The problem of civil registration for Muslim and other indigenous Filipinos was the theme of a recent gathering in Davao City sponsored by the National Statistics Office under civil registrar general Carmelita Ericta, and the Unregistered Children Project, an NGO undertaking led by Rose Trajano, with funding from the PLAN International.

I was invited to shed light on the relevance of Maguindanaon tarsila (genealogy) to Muslim civil registry. I told my fellow participants to that focus group discussion that the compilation of genealogy among Maguindanaon royalty was never intended to be a wide-scale civil registration. It is a facility resorted to by the ruling class—as in other feudal or monarchic entities elsewhere—primarily to determine the order of succession to the Sultanate or other hereditary titles within the polity. Secondarily, genealogical records also served as a basis in determining the bride price of ladies belonging to the royal class. The manner by which the entries in the tarsila were inscribed can be suggestive of the importance that Maguindanaon royalty (and, I think, it also applies to all other Muslim Filipinos) ascribe to pedigree both on the paternal and maternal sides. The NSO-ARMM director, Commando Pilimpinas, noted that in France, many families keep their own genealogies, facilitating the conduct of their civil registration. But, Philippine Shariah Jurisconsult Saadudin Alauya observed, such is not the case among Philippine Muslim (Maguindanaon, Tausug, Maranao) royalty where the practice, which was virtually clothed with sanctity, was jealously confined to the royal families. Be that as it may, civil registration remains imperative for Muslim Filipinos.

The non-registration of births and other important events among these ethnic groups continue to be problematic. Yet, the same is not unique. It is a concern of global proportions, particularly in Asia, Africa and Latin America. A United Nations Declaration has enshrined the right of every child to an identity and a nationality. Thus, it has become the obligation of everyone to see to it that every child born must be registered.

Why do indigenous Filipinos, including the Muslims ignore, evade or even despise the civil registry system? An observant analyst can only wonder at the yawning gap, in some localities, between registered voters and registered persons, with the latter claiming the bigger number. But, as older columnists would say, that would be another story or column.

The discrepancy between the actual Muslim population and the number of those registered has even become fodder for political tirade. Decades ago, Nur Misuari of the MNLF declared before the Organization of Islamic Conference that the Philippine government has committed "statistical genocide" against its Muslim citizens. Nothing can be farther from the truth. In some instances, government bureaucrats may have manipulated statistics, but in most cases, the citizens were the ones who have deliberately refused to be registered. The reason could be plain ignorance, mistrust or defiance of a government perceived to be alien. This could be a case, Prof. Taha Basman pointed out, of "statistical suicide."

While we understand the historical reasons for the Muslims' self-defeating practice of non-registration, we also acknowledge the fact that aside from being practically ineffective and useless, it is also culturally and politically counter-productive.

To be enlisted as a human being and as a citizen of the republic, one does not only reclaim his right to identity; he also asserts his difference from all others. As an ethnic group, they also assert their separate ethnic and religious identity. Otherwise, non-registration would mean reduction to official nothingness and cultural annihilation.

The seminal effort by the NSO and UCP may never provide all the answers. It may not have even asked all the questions. But I am certain it can go a long way toward crafting an effective, rational and culturally sensitive civil registration system for Maguindanaons and other Muslim Filipinos.

* * *

Comments to datuamir@columnist.com

Until the shoe is on the other foot

COMMENTARY

Dean Jorge Bocobo

VIDEOGRAM Regulatory Board's newly appointed chair Bong Revilla, has been a busy man, fighting the evils of pirated Filipino movies and music. I caught him on AM radio explaining the campaign against "intellectual property contraband" at places like Virra Mall, where of course the underground economy is well aboveground and he has his work cut out for him.

Knowing full well that video piracy provides livelihood to a very large number of small vendors, the VRB recently gave those at Virra Mall a grace period. But at the end of it, Revilla admits, only a "token" amount of pirated material was surrendered and little has changed.

To be fair, anything I say here about "Virra Mall" applies to anywhere that pirated or smuggled goods are sold openly in the Philippines, which is a lot of places, not just at the Greenhills Shopping Center (in the city of San Juan, Erap Estrada's hometown, where Virra Mall is located). Both foreign and domestic films and music can be purchased on CDrom disks in a variety of digital formats for as little as P30 in many places, which include the sidewalks of Ayala Avenue in Makati City, as well as the malls and sidestreets of most electrified towns and cities nationwide. It's all people can afford to buy after blowing their wad on cell phones.

Revilla was valiantly trying to answer the difficult questions being thrown at him by the radio program's host and the listening audience. One of them was about the scope of the VRB's enforcement activities. He was saying the VRB is not in charge of policing the sale of fake goods that don't fall under the definition of a "videogram," which is basically limited to locally made films, movies and music CDs.

When asked about all the Hollywood films easily and cheaply available on video CDs everywhere, he seemed to abet the notion that pirating this material is somehow less evil than pirating local movies because it is foreigners that are being hurt, not the Philippine film industry.

This may be a short-sighted view. While it is true that taste and technology have won the Filipino moviegoers over to foreign films, both Filipino and foreign movie producers are hurt by the common piracy of their easily mass-produced products. Just like human rights, intellectual property rights cannot be violated or enforced selectively. You cannot defend just Filipino artists from piracy, while allowing foreign artists to be ripped off, and then expect piracy to wane.

President Macapagal-Arroyo mentioned the word "smuggling" six times during her recent Sona, but piracy not even once. That may be because smuggling definitely hurts the government in the pocketbook. But maybe she believes like Revilla that piracy of foreign-originated intellectual property, is an acceptable thing. At least until the shoe is on the other foot and it is our intellectual property being pirated.

What hasn't helped the film industry is its steadfast dedication to clumsy renditions of sexual fantasies, violent melodrama, ripoffs of foreign blockbusters and other idiocies, whose foistability on the public, civil libertarians are still duty-bound to defend. Meanwhile, Hollywood has grown infinitely more capable of portraying fantasies in deeper shades of disrepute, plus they make really cheap melodrama and stupider idiocies. So even in the competition among pirated goods, the local movie material still loses, which accounts for the predominance of foreign films in Virra Mall's miniature cities of illicit plastic. The only conclusion I can reach is that the local film industry should encourage the piracy of its material, if only to win a greater market share.

This brings us to the piracy of computer programs or software, which has an even greater significance economically and educationally to the country than the piracy of entertainment material like movies, music and games.

The most widely pirated piece of computer software in the world, the one most frequently copied and illegally reproduced, is the Microsoft Corporation Windows operating system, which powers more than 90 percent of the computers on the planet.

In the Philippines, almost all computers run on this operating system, but some industry watchgroups like the Business Software Alliance estimate that the vast majority, up to 95 percent of these are running on illegally copied operating system software. You can easily buy a pirated, running copy of this software for P100, even its latest version.

Now, it may seem that Bill Gates lost a lot of money in the Philippines if only 5 percent of the copies of Windows that are running are legit. But these are not lost sales in the usual sense. Most of these people could not afford to pay for Windows anyway at the retail prices charged in North America of $100 or more. But now they represent real market share for Microsoft. The pirates have done a job that Microsoft's marketing division could never have done, which is to put Windows on most of the world's hardware. In other words, even if you bought pirated copies of Microsoft's Windows, you are likely to become a loyal customer of that company and its products. You would certainly access the World Wide Web through Microsoft's Internet Explorer product, packaged with Windows, and prebuilt to steer you into Microsoft's website. That alone multiplied by millions of users, could defray the losses in retail sales of the operating system that may have occurred.

That's the great thing about real intellectual property. Even when others steal it from you and sell it, the good you've done for mankind can come back to reward you.

* * *

Comments to deanjbocobo@yahoo.com

Missing PDI articles

READERS' ADVOCATE

Raul J. Palabrica

FOR THOUSANDS of Filipinos living or working abroad, the INQUIRER website—INQ7.net (a joint venture with radio and television giant GMA 7)—is the principal source of up-to-the-minute news about the events in the country.

Surfing the Net is the next best thing available if a hard copy of the newspaper is not available, or if it is, its subscription price is equivalent to one decent breakfast at McDonald's.

Lately, I've been receiving e-mail from expatriate Filipinos inquiring why some of the articles published in the INQUIRER do not come out on the website. Apparently, their friends here called them about published articles that are of interest to them, but when they checked the website to read them they were nowhere to be found.

In a related case, a reader who is employed in a Makati-based IT company, asked why an INQUIRER column that used to appear on the website ceased to be part of the latter's content.

He wrote: "Every Friday, I always download the Tax Files articles of SGV & Co. in the business menu of your website to keep abreast of the latest tax updates and because of its detailed explanation on tax matters. These past Friday's Tax Files were no longer included in your website.

"The last time a Tax Files article appeared on the website was on June 14, 2002 with the topic 'Tax consequences of de facto merger.' Although it was in your broadsheet or hard copy edition, I prefer the Internet edition which I can download and save the article for future reference. I hope you will upload again the Tax Files in your website."

Limitations

The letters gave me the opportunity to discuss with the editor of the website the intricate workings of the latest mode of mass communications. He explained the reasons why sometimes INQ7.net does not carry the entire editorial content of the INQUIRER.

According to the website editor, there are two classes of published articles that are usually not uploaded or forwarded to the website by the INQUIRER. These are stories that come from the international news agencies, such as Associated Press and Reuters, and press releases.

The INQUIRER is barred by its agreement with the news agencies from uploading their articles to any other party. The subject articles are for the INQUIRER's exclusive use. Whoever wants to use those articles for whatever purpose has to get the agencies' prior permission and pay the corresponding charges for such use.

Because press releases are not products of the newspaper's editorial efforts or creativity, the INQUIRER does not, as a matter of practice, forward them to the website. The only time they are uploaded is when the website editor asks for them or wants to use them for background material.

An article may not be on the website on the day it was published in the INQUIRER if the website editor decides to use it on a later date. This practice is called "banking," meaning the story is put on reserve for future online presentation.

Let us say on one Sunday edition of the Lifestyle section, 10 stories were published. The website can bring out all the articles at the same time, but for practical reasons it will not because by the time the user finishes reading, say, the fifth article, his eyes will be too tired to read the rest of the articles. Pity the authors of the unread articles, they will not get the opportunity to be appreciated by the user.

To make sure the website's Lifestyle section for the rest of the week contains sufficient articles, the editor uses, for example, only three articles from the Sunday edition and reserves the rest for the regular weekdays.

Parameters

It is also possible that the reason why a published article cannot be found on the website is because it was placed in a section other than where it was originally published.

Stories about overseas Filipino workers may appear in the Metro section of the INQUIRER, but on the website it will be placed in the Filipinos Abroad section. Feature stories of cellular or IT companies usually see print in the Business section of the INQUIRER. On the website, they are placed in the Infotech section.

In addition to the factors mentioned above, technical considerations sometimes restrict the ability of the website to put online the editorial contents of the newspaper.

INQ7.net operates within a certain bandwidth and server space. Bandwidth is defined as "a frequency measurement, expressed in cycles per second or bits per second, of the amount of information that can flow through a channel. Server space is the storage capacity of the facility (server) that holds the contents of the website.

The ability of the website to receive, store and transmit its contents to the users is determined by the parameters of its assigned bandwidth and server space.

To maximize the use of these two resources (which do not come cheap in terms of rental), the website picks only those uploaded materials that, in its judgment, will be of interest to the majority of the users and will not exceed the parameters.

The website editor also explained that the users should not expect to read its contents as they appeared in the INQUIRER. Adjustments in writing style have to be made because the website caters to an international audience, unlike the newspaper which is basically for local consumption.

For example, references to "yesterday," "today" or "tomorrow" in the published articles have to be changed to particular days of the week because of the difference in time zones between the United States and the Philippines.

Also, Filipino terms are avoided, as much as possible or rephrased in such a way that foreigners who visit the website can understand its contents. The website objective of getting wide international exposure will not be achieved if its visitors are unable to get a complete grasp of its contents.

Perhaps, the element that sets the website apart from its newspaper counterpart is its use of short or direct to the point articles. Reading the news in a white computer screen puts more strain on the eyes than reading it in a newspaper.

With shorter stories, the website is able to hold the attention of the user longer and give him as much news reports that its bandwidth and server space can accommodate.

Hopefully, next time website habitues fail to read some articles or columns of the INQUIRER on the Net, they will understand why and not feel like giving their PCs a strong whack.

The readers' advocate may be reached at the following address: "The Readers' Advocate" c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City. Or through fax nos. 897-4793 to 94, or readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph.

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Good news, bad news

GOOD news is no news. Why so? Because there are millions upon millions of people who live good lives, do good deeds, spread good cheer. And all these good tidings are so common, so ordinary, that they go unnoticed, unmentioned, unrewarded.

And bad news? It is the exception. Hence, it becomes "newsworthy." It gets printed by the national dailies. It stares at our faces every day of the week. And we read it—either with relish or sadness, with glee or shame.

This is true about bad news in governance, bad news about public officials and personalities, inclusive of bad news about actors and actresses.

The same is true of bad news in the Church, bed news about the clergy, including bad news about the hierarchy.

Thus, while there are millions of lay faithful living their marriage vows until death does them part, those few who break up for one reason or another are neighborhood news. While there are thousands of priests living their service commitment daily, faithfully and silently, those very few who have done otherwise become national and even international news.

Thus, it was that even among the 12 apostles, there was but one Judas. All the other 11 lived and preached the faith, spent and even gave their lives for the Church.

Thus it is, too, that there are hundreds upon hundreds of truly admirable and exemplary priests living good personal lives and exercising praiseworthy ministries the world over. The good Lord knows this. The Church is aware of this.

To these simple and lowly priests go my profound admiration. They serve well and much. They build the people of God. They are heralds of love and hope. I salute them. I thank them. I bless them.

—OSCAR V. CRUZ, D.D.,
archbishop, Lingayen, Dagupan

Failing its mandate

BAYAN Muna failed the expectations of the majority of the poor who voted for its entry as one of the party-list organizations in Congress. Part of its agenda is to work for the alleviation of the living conditions of the people, help in the promulgation of equal justice and to help the government in its peace initiative. As time passes by, Bayan Muna has shown its real political color. It is now obviously in alliance with other Left-leaning groups like Gabriela, Anak Bayan, KMU, LFS, etc. exploiting government failures and alleged military abuses in the countryside. Bayan Muna should also look for the abuses of the NPA, ASG, MILF, the Musuari breakaway group, Chinese drug cartel, etc. and not focus its attention merely on the failures of the government.

The urgent call now is for everybody to guard their ranks from Bayan Muna's deceitful propaganda and activities. *Sa aking mga kababayan, gumising na tayo sa katotohanan.*

—ENRIQUE S. MONTEALEGRE,
5410 Ave., Murphy,
Cubao, Queaon City

To solve traffic congestion on Edsa

METROPOLITAN Manila Development Auhtority Chair Bayani Fernando has announced that he will solve the traffic problem by clearing the sidewalks and roads of vendors, assorted shops and other obstructions. This is a very simple solution although a very difficult one to implement. It is with this in mind that I humbly suggest two more solutions, which are not as difficult to implement, but only for Edsa.

The first is the removal of buses that illegally ply Edsa. There are hundreds of these as reported in the papers and although they are apprehended and impounded, they are back again on the streets the following day. These buses cause traffic because most of the time, they are half empty and they spend their time stalling and blocking the road in order to wait for passengers. This removal is only fair to those with a license to operate on Edsa and will result in the reduction of traffic as well as pollution. An iron hand is needed to implement this and I believe Fernando can do this.

The second solution is the increase in the number of coaches of the Metro Rail Transit from three to four and the extension of its operating hours from 9:30 p.m. to 12 a.m. These will cover for the removal of illegal buses and result in greater utilization of the MRT and the subsequent reduction of subsidy by the government to the MRT. These measures require only the cooperation of the Department of Transportation and Communication and the MRT.

Everybody hopes that the MMDA chair will succeed in solving this gargantuan problem of pollution and traffic for health, aesthetic and economic benefits.

—ARMANDO M. GUIDOTE JR.,
Mandaluyong, Metro Manila

Supreme Court battling corruption

I WRITE in connection with the remarks allegedly made by US Ambassador Frank Ricciardone attributing our country's poor economic performance to "constitutional barriers to foreign investment and perceptions of widespread corruption; especially in the judiciary."

We want to stress that the judiciary, under Chief Justice Hilario G. Davide Jr., has been aggressively addressing the perceived corruption in the judiciary by ridding its ranks of corrupt, incompetent and inefficient members. From 1999 until early 2002, a total of 352 judges have already felt the wrath of the Supreme Court. Among them, 22 have been dismissed from the service, including a justice of the Court of Appeals, 19 have been relieved or suspended, including two Sandiganbayan justices, 43 have been reprimanded and 189 have been fined.

The Supreme Court gives no quarters in its fight against graft and corruption to purge the Bench and the Bar of abusive members because the Filipino people certainly deserve nothing less than a clean and efficient judiciary.

Furthermore, the Supreme Court, through its Action Program for Judicial Reform (APJR) is actively pursuing far-reaching measures to reform the judicial system so that it may function effectively to enhance the citizenry's trust and confidence in the judicial system and its institutions.

We reassure our countrymen that the Supreme Court is hard at work to sustain a "judiciary that is independent, effective and efficient and worthy of public trust and confidence."

—ISMAEL G. KHAN JR., assistant court administrator and chief, Public Information Office, Supreme Court, Manila

Progress has a price

I HAPPEN to know a bit more about the background of the Skyway project and the toll issue because I am a concerned motorist and make it point to read anything about road projects and traffic. So I would like to correct some of the points raised by James Jason Vibar in his letter, which you published recently.

Infrastructures like toll roads are public utilities that the government should build for the people. But the government does not have the money needed to develop such roads to be able to make people, goods and services move efficiently. So it has to ask the help of private investors to build roads and solve traffic problems. A full-page public information advertisement by the Tollroad Association of the Philippines that was published in the Inquirer last June 28 explains all these.

In the case of the Skyway system, before the elevated portion was built and its at-grade portion from Magallanes to Alabang was rehabilitated, the heavily damaged, unsafe South Expressway was a "giant parking lot" and a "danger zone" to hundreds of thousands of motorists and commuters who had to use it regularly. The service roads were in worse shape than the expressway. There was no choice.

The Magallanes-Alabang at-grade portion of the Skyway system was not constructed by Citra. It has been there since 1968. But Citra rehabilitated and reconstructed it totally in 1998. Before that, I do not know of any major rehabilitation done on this segment of the highway. I also remember reading billboards that Citra expanded its rehabilitation work to areas outside the expressway like immediate sections of the service roads.

If Vibar really uses this toll system regularly, he would know that the Philippine National Construction Corp., and not Citra, operates and maintains it. He would also know that the toll increase that the Toll Regulatory Board (TRB) implemented in January was not more than 100 percent but about 33 percent. And on July 16, the toll fees went up by an average of 22 percent.

I have learned to accept fairly high tolls because I know comfort and safety have a price.

To cast aspersion on the TRB's integrity is most unfair. It has in fact granted the Skyway project a provisional toll increase that is much lower than what was asked in order to service its dollar loans. The TRB has also been very strict and careful in supervising the construction, operation and maintenance activities on the toll roads and in evaluating petitions for toll adjustments. The TRB does not grant petitions for toll increase until the expressways are repaired and improved. I'm sure the TRB also has the public welfare in mind when it evaluated the Skyway's petition.

I am for progress and it should be our legacy to future generations.

—RAY ROBERT GAMBOA,
San Miguel Village, Makati City

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4 Captain's chairs	✓	—	—	—
All coil front suspension	✓	—	—	—
All coil rear suspension	✓	✓	✓	✓
AUDIOVOX (USA) VCD w/ LCD TV	✓	—	—	—
Side mirrors w/ demister	✓	—	—	—
Roof rack w/ rails	✓	—	—	—
Alloy wheels	✓	—	✓	—
Power features	✓	✓	✓	✓
Service warranty	3 yrs/110,000 kms.	2 yrs/50,000 kms.	2 yrs/50,000 kms.	2 yrs/50,000 kms.
SRP	P 865,000	P1,103,000	P876,000	P1,270,000

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FEATURES	PREGIO Festival	TYT HAGL	MIT EXC	NSN ESCPD
Engine displacement	2665	1998	2477	2663
Front all coil suspension	✓	—	—	—
Rear all coil suspension	✓	—	—	—
Swivelling 2nd row seat	✓	—	—	—
AUDIOVOX (USA) VCD with TV	✓	—	—	—
2-tone body colors	✓	—	✓	✓
Power features	✓	✓	✓	✓
Service warranty	3 yrs/110,000 kms.	2 yrs/50,000 kms.	2 yrs/50,000 kms.	2 yrs/50,000 kms.
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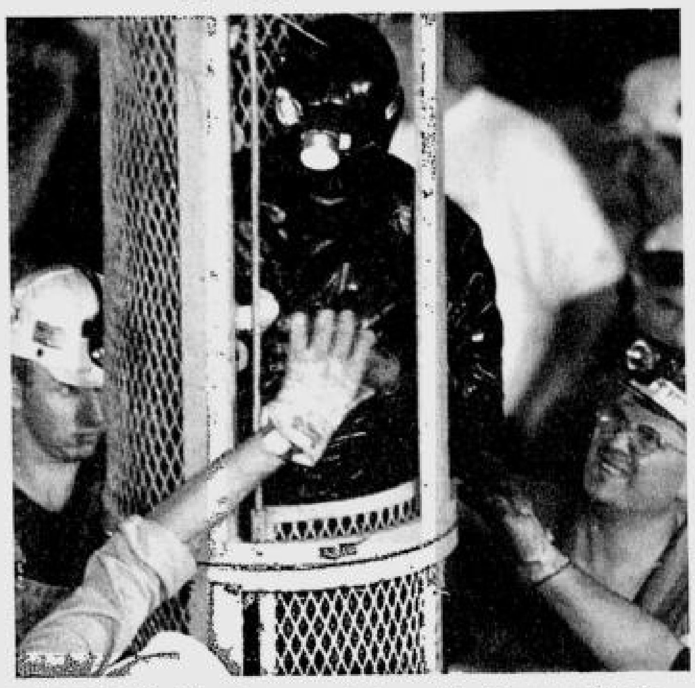
The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Trapped for 3 days, 9 US miners rescued



THE FOURTH of the nine trapped miners at the Quecreek Mine is helped out of the rescue capsule. REUTERS

SOMERSET, Pennsylvania—Rescue workers pulled out all nine miners from the watery, 72-meter-deep shaft where they had been trapped for three days, a jubilant reward for an effort fraught with one gut-wrenching setback after another.

The first, pulled out about 1 a.m. Sunday, was dropped onto a stretcher to the wild applause of rescuers. After that, miners were brought up one-by-one in roughly 15-minute intervals.

Battered American flags were seen on the sides of some of their helmets. When the fourth was pulled up in the yellow, cylindrical capsule, a smile was visible on his blackened face.

After crews struggled with two giant drills for more than 74 frustrating hours—without any signs of life since Thursday—Gov. Mark Schweiker appeared before reporters late Saturday night and raised his fists over his head.

"All nine are alive," he said. "And we believe that all nine are in pretty good shape."

Randy Fogle, 43, was the first pulled from the 66-centimeter-wide hole. He had reported feeling chest pains while still in the mine, but officials at the hospital where he soon arrived said he was slightly hypothermic but otherwise well.

After more than 74 hours of frantic drilling, a giant auger pierced the ceiling of 1.2-meter-high chamber at 10:16 p.m. Saturday, allowing workers to drop a telephone line to the miners through a small air pipe.

Moments later, rescuers were seen hugging and giving the thumbs-up.

Then the word came from an unidentified, mud-caked rescue worker who shouted up from the pit near where they dropped the communication device: "They're all down there. They're waiting to come up. There's nine of them. We talked to them on the telephone."

The first words from the miners were blunt. "What took you so long?" one of the miners asked, according to a rescuer.

Ron Svonavec was at the top of the rescue shaft when contact was first made. He said one of them said, "There's nine men ready to get the hell out of here. We need some chew."

The Sipesville Fire Hall, where the families had been gathering, erupted in celebration. Families cried and hugged and many were in the street with hands in the air.

"Wow. Wow. Wow. It's just unbelievable," said mine worker Lou Lepley, who has been staffing the mine entrance for three days. "I have no words."

The miners became trapped in the flooded Quecreek Mine at about 9 p.m. Wednesday, when they inadvertently broke into an abandoned, water-filled mine that maps showed to be 90 meters away. As much as 60 million gallons of water rushed into the shaft where they were working, and they were able to warn a second crew, which escaped. *AP*

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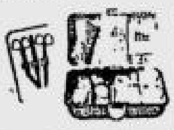

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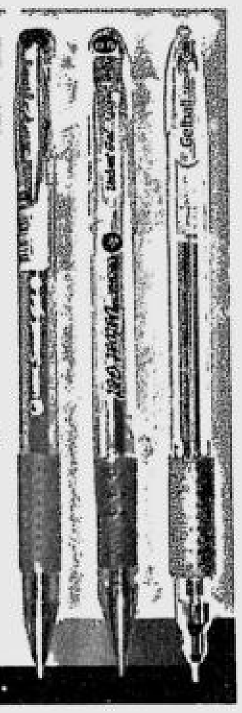

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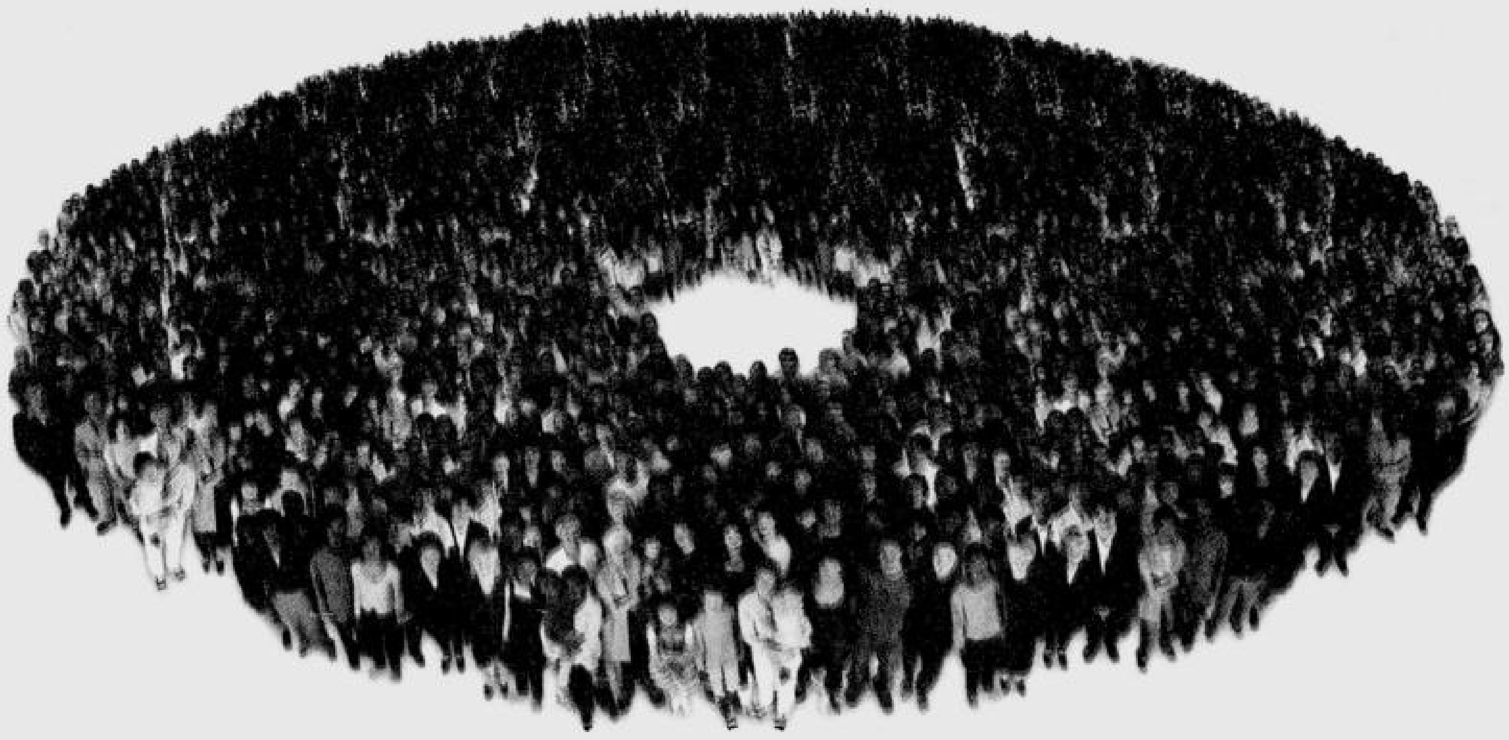

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Burma junta releases 32 political prisoners

RANGOON—Burma's military government said it released 32 prisoners Sunday, including 14 members of the opposition party, in a move coinciding with an upcoming visit of UN special envoy Razali Ismail.

The prisoners "were released from various correctional facilities," according to a government news release. "They all are in good health and reunited with their respective families."

It was one of the biggest single releases of political prisoners since the government started making such gestures in early 2001 to show its good faith in reconciliation talks with opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy party won a 1990 general election but was never allowed to take power.

The closed-door talks began in October 2000 at the instigation of Razali, a special envoy of UN Secretary General Kofi Annan. Razali, a Malaysian diplomat, will make his eighth visit to Burma on August 2.

The government's statement said it "will continue to release more individuals who will cause no harm to the community nor threaten the existing peace, stability and unity of the nation."

According to official figures, 297 NLD members have been freed since the start of the reconciliation talks. Another 261 members, including some 17 elected representatives from the 1990 election, remain in prison. *AP*

India urged to allow observers

NEW DELHI—US Secretary of State Colin Powell suggested on Sunday that India free political prisoners and allow independent observers of elections in disputed Kashmir this fall.

He said free and fair elections in India's only Muslim-majority province would be a step toward finding a solution to the 55-year dispute with Pakistan over the region.

Powell said the level of warlike tension between the nuclear-armed nations "has improved considerably over the past month."

"The tension is still there," Powell told reporters after meeting with Indian leaders.

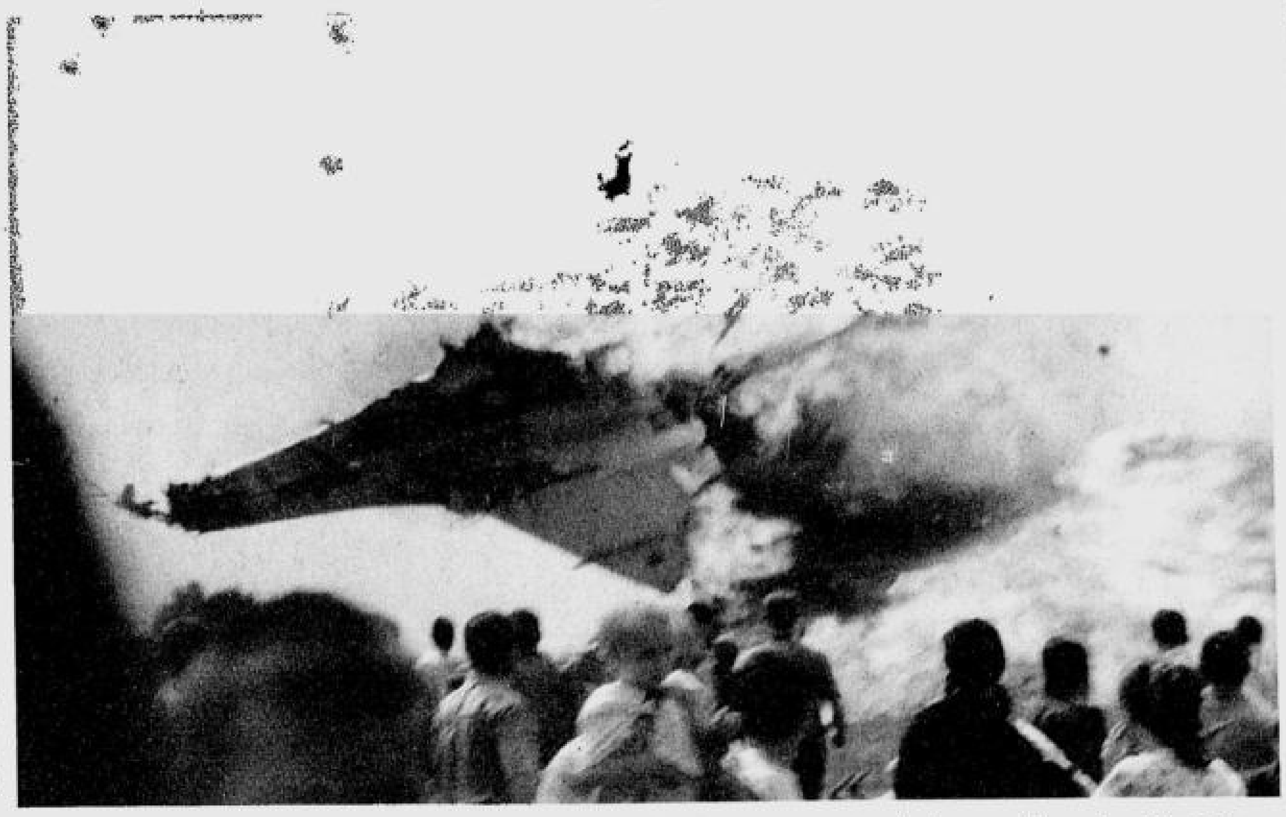
"The armies remain mobilized," he said, although India has moved its warships away from Pakistani waters and allowed Pakistani aircraft to fly over India.

"We look to India to take further de-escalatory actions as Pakistan makes good on its pledges to permanently cease support for infiltration," Powell said.

India accuses Pakistan of arming, funding, training and helping militants to cross the frontier to make attacks in Indian territory in a 12-year insurgency that has killed more than 60,000 people. *AP*

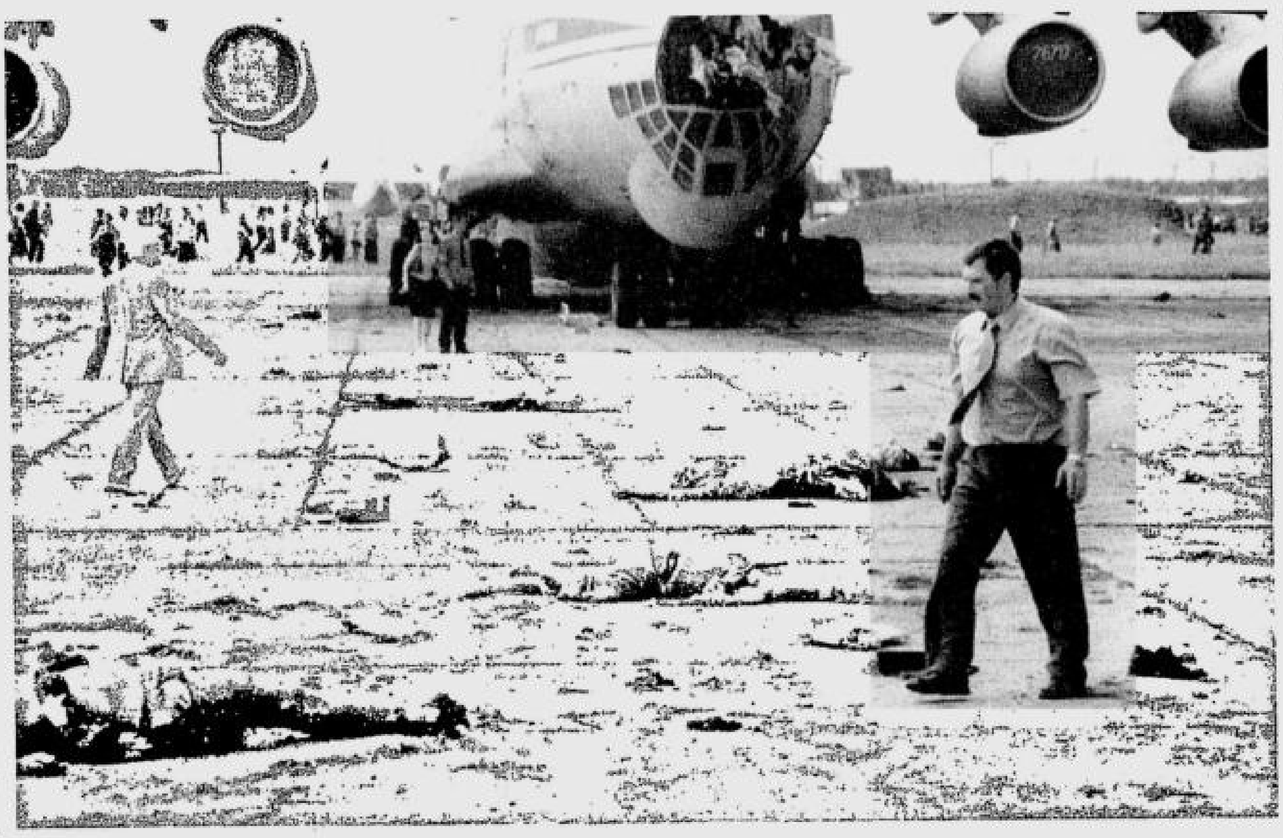
AIR SHOW DISASTER

Ukraine city mourns 83 dead



SPECTATORS watch as an SU-27 fighter plane crashes while performing maneuvers at an airshow near the western Ukrainian city of Lviv.

REUTERS



AFTER the crash, the tarmac is littered with bodies of men, women and children.

REUTERS

LVIV, Ukraine—Residents in this western Ukrainian city began two days of official mourning Sunday after a fighter jet crash at an air show left at least 83 people dead and 116 others injured in one of the world's deadliest-ever air show accidents.

An SU-27 warplane was performing risky aerobatic maneuvers at Sknyliv air base Saturday in the city of Lviv when it clipped the ground and sheared through a crowd of hundreds of spectators before exploding in a ball of fire. The two crew ejected and survived.

Emergency officials in Lviv said Sunday that the death toll had risen to 83 killed and 116 injured, and said the figures could rise further.

Lviv residents have begun two days of mourning, which was announced by Gov. Liubomyr Buniak. Music and entertainment programs were curtailed as residents attended church services to pray for the victims.

Hundreds of anxious relatives waited outside the Lviv morgue for officials to identify the victims, whose bodies were being held in refrigerated trucks outside pending identification.

Mykhailo Kurochka, deputy head of Lviv's police service, said officials had begun to call relatives of victims to start the identification procedure. One-by-one, they will be taken to identify bodies, which will then be prepared for funerals.

Svetlana Atamaniuk, whose daughter and granddaughters were killed, waited with the others for official confirmation of their deaths.

She said that she was at her home across from the airfield when she heard the plane go down. "It was ripping the air," she said.

"My only daughter, her husband and their two daughters are lying in there," she said late Saturday night, waiting outside the morgue for information. "I can't get in, I will be here until the morning," she said.

Many of the bodies were in terrible condition, complicating the identification process.

President Leonid Kuchma, who cut short his vacation in Crimea to rush to the accident scene, on Saturday implied that a technical error could have been to blame, saying after his arrival in Lviv that "this equipment has already functioned to its technological capacity." Much of the country's Air Force arsenal is left over from the Soviet era and is in poor condition.

"We don't know anything absolutely except that the pilots were the most experienced, of the highest class," Kuchma said in comments shown on state television.

Ukrainian officials are very sensitive about the state of the military after last October when an errant missile fired from a Ukrainian military base shot down a Russian plane, killing all 78 people on board, most of them immigrants to Israel.

Kuchma ordered the head of Defense and Security Council, Yevhen Marchuk, to personally lead the government commission investigating the accident. Prosecutors also started an investigation. *AP*

Sri Lanka president calls ministers 'worms, snakes, pigs'

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka—While Sri Lanka's prime minister was away in Washington last week, President Chandrika Kumaratunga badmouthed his Cabinet ministers, calling them "worms, snakes and pigs." She twitched her mouth in mockery of the finance minister's deformity: slightly lopsided lips.

Her bitter and disrespectful comments about Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe's United National Front government came in a July 21 speech to her party faithful that has dismayed supporters and opponents and given the media a field day.

The mudslinging has raised concerns that the animosity could hinder efforts to end a 19-year-old ethnic war on this island-nation off the southern tip of India.

"Kumaratunga's personal political ambitions and her sweeping executive powers pose the most serious threat to the UNF government's stability—and thus to the chances of peacefully resolving the island's protracted ethnic conflict," said the pro-rebel Tamil Guardian weekly.

Kumaratunga's Peoples' Alliance party was defeated by Wickremesinghe's UNF during Parliament elections last December but she can remain president until 2005 as she was elected in a separate vote.

The president's wide executive powers empower her to sack the government after it completes a year in office. However, she cannot suspend Parliament or fire a Cabinet minister without the consent of the prime minister. The two bitter rivals have different powers in a forced cohabitation that is unusual in Sri Lankan politics.

"We lost the December election because the UNP plotted and bought over some worms, snakes and pigs," Kumaratunga said, referring to members who defected from her party last year to join the coalition led by Wickremesinghe.

"It's extremely difficult for me to work with these people," Kumaratunga said to supporters in Polonnaruwa, about 170 km northeast of the capital, Colombo.

Wickremesinghe's party has been widely credited with making attempts to end the country's civil war. His government signed a Norwegian-brokered ceasefire in February with Tamil Tiger rebels, with the goal of entering peace talks to resolve the conflict over control of the northeast region, which is dominated by minority Tamils.

The war has killed more than 64,500 people.

Kumaratunga, who was blinded in one eye by a Tamil Tiger bomb during the 1999 presidential election campaign, has hardened her stance toward the rebels since, and favored a military solution to the conflict.

Her attacks on Wickremesinghe's government don't bode well for the peace effort.

"This party has no vision, program or concern for the people," Kumaratunga said. "This is an amazing government. It won't go on for very long." *AP*

Non-violent struggle prescribed in Mideast

JERUSALEM—US civil rights leader Reverend Jesse Jackson urged the Palestinians on Sunday to change tack in their 22-month-old uprising and adopt non-violent forms of resistance to end Israeli occupation.

Jackson, who has described himself as an impartial "bridge-builder" visiting the Middle East on a peace mission, also called on Israel to halt settlement construction in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip as a key to renewing peace talks frozen for nearly two years.

Jackson met Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres on Sunday. He is due to hold talks with Palestinian officials, including President Yasser Arafat.

"We hope that in talking with Mr Arafat and other leaders in the region, that they will see the value of non-violence, not as an act of submission or surrender, but a form of resistance to shift the struggle back away from the military to the (peace) process," Jackson told reporters after meeting Peres.

The 60-year-old leader of the Chicago-based Rainbow/PUSH Coalition heads a delegation representing several religious faiths that will also meet rights groups, victims of violence and religious leaders in a five-day visit which began on Saturday.

Jackson said he believed the Palestinians should take advantage of a "strategic moment" to adopt non-violent struggle and thereby gain more world sympathy for their fight for independence.

"The key to ending occupation and settlements is a real appreciation of non-violence," he said.

Israel's Army swept into seven Palestinian cities in the West Bank last month after back-to-back suicide bombings in Jerusalem, keeping 700,000 Palestinians under crippling curfews. *Reuters*

Weary Congo leader tries to end four-year war

KINSHASA, Congo—Sprawling on a gold, lacquered sofa, Congo's young but tired leader said he was optimistic a new peace accord would finally push central Africa's war to a close — four years and 2.5 million lives later.

At the same time, 31-year-old Joseph Kabila said it would be difficult to trust any of the seven nations involved in the conflict — called Africa's first world war — to carry out a peace pledge.

"Trust is a heavy word to use for nations that have been at war for the last four years," Kabila said in an interview with The Associated Press.

Still, he said he was committed to an ambitious new peace pact with neighboring and enemy Rwanda.

"We can't get rid of them and they can't get rid of us. We are condemned to live as neighbors," Kabila concluded.

The Congo leader confirmed he would travel to South Africa to sign a new accord Tuesday with Rwandan President Paul Kagame. That would start a 90-day plan for pulling Rwanda's Army out of Congo and for disarming Congo-based militias that threaten Rwanda's security.

Speaking to The Associated Press in his family home Friday night, the former summer villa of the Belgian royals who once ruled Congo, Kabila said he then intends to reopen peace talks with Rwandan-backed rebels.

"We have extended our hand," Kabila said. "We expect them to extend their hand as well."

Congo, Rwanda and the Rwanda-backed rebels remain the chief unreconciled combatants in a war that started in August 1998 when neighboring Rwanda and Uganda joined a Congolese rebel offensive to overthrow Kabila's father, Laurent.

Rwanda accused Laurent Kabila of harboring Rwandan Hutu militias which fled to Congo to escape retribution for the 1994 genocide of a half-million Rwandans.

Uganda, Angola and Burundi also wanted to shut down rebel groups operating from exile in the wilds of east Congo.

Laurent Kabila, an inept despot, quickly lost control of the north and east to Rwanda- and Uganda-backed rebels.

Laurent Kabila held onto the rest of the country only after Zimbabwe, Angola and Namibia deployed their own armies in his defense. *AP*

Liberians stream back to recaptured town

TUBMANBURG, Liberia—Weary civilians streamed home along a skull-lined road Saturday to the Liberian city of Tubmanburg, recaptured from rebels after fierce fighting ended a months-long siege.

Members of what had been a group of 60 blind people lost in the fighting were among those making their way back after what for Tubmanburg's people was weeks or months hiding in the bush since the city came under rebel attack in March.

"We were living in the jungle like animals—we were between life and death, feeding on wild fruits," said one returning man, 48-year-old Joseph Kennedy, wearing a white cross on his chest, old green shower slippers and a shredded shirt.

Displaced people returning Saturday sat motionless before a ransacked and bullet-scarred building, waiting for small handouts of wheat from the government and the Roman Catholic church. Food and medicine were said to be in short supply.

Tubmanburg emerged as one of the hardest-fought spots in an intense offensive this year by rebels fighting to drive out President Charles Taylor. *AP*

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Running priest, farmers question CARP statistics

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—Running priest Fr. Robert Reyes and Negros farmers on Friday questioned the claim of President Macapagal-Arroyo in her State of the Nation Address that her administration distributed 250,000 hectares of land under the agrarian reform program.

He also raised doubts about the President's claim that 7,000 hectares of land were distributed in Negros Occidental, making the province a land reform "topnotcher."

Reyes asked the President where she got her data and where were the lands her administration allegedly distributed to landless farmers in Negros.

He said the President's Sona was a disappointment because the people did not feel the gains she claimed to have achieved.

Reyes on Friday led about 100 farmer-members of Task Force Mapalad in a "Dalagan Para sa Duta kag Kabuhi (Run for land and Life)," a 10-kilometer run around Bacolod City "to highlight the real situation of agrarian reform in the province."

He and the farmers held short programs in front of the cathedral, Department of Agrarian Reform provincial office in Dawis, provincial Capitol and the Bacolod plaza.

Reyes also staged a seven-kilometer run in Iloilo on Saturday where he was joined by some 50 farmers. Soaked by rain and sweat, Reyes ran from the Iloilo pier to the DAR office in Balantang Jaro, stopping by at the DAR provincial office on Redemptorist Street.

Farmers, who joined the run in Bacolod, were said to be agrarian reform beneficiaries of land owned by Eduardo Cojuanco, First Gentleman Mike Arroyo, Roberto Cuenca, and the heirs of Roberto Benedicto, among others.

Reyes cited the five landholdings of Mr. Arroyo and his relatives in central Negros Occidental, which the President herself announced would be distributed under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program in May last year.

These landholdings are the 69-hectare Hacienda Alipayon in Barangay Lalagsan, La Castellana with 40 beneficiaries; the 189-hectare Hacienda Manolita in Barangay Payao Binalbagan with 78 beneficiaries; 110-hectare Hacienda Olimbo in Barangay Calapi, Hinigaran with 64 beneficiaries; 120-hectare Hacienda Vacan in Barangay Guintubdan, Isabela with 50 beneficiaries; and the 189-hectare Hacienda Grande in Barangay Robles, La Castellana, with 57 beneficiaries.

In a ceremony in Malacañang on June 22 last year, the President and her husband distributed token land titles to farmer beneficiaries on Arroyo's land in Negros and promised that the land distribution process would be concluded by December 2001.

Jose Rodito Argueles, Task Force Mapalad national spokesperson and farmer beneficiary from Hacienda Grande, said there was no Notice of Coverage, one of the 27 steps in the transfer process.

"Agrarian reform officials argue that they have to complete their documentation first," said Argueles.

Reyes called on the President to act on the plight of 1,759 farmer-beneficiaries in 5,000 hectares of Negros land owned by Cojuangco, which he supposedly gave up for free in 1998. *With a report from Ma. Diosa Labiste, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Outrage grows over use of funds for dredging

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Outrage over the release of P563 million for desilting and dredging projects have spread among Mt. Pinatubo victims and various groups working for their welfare.

At an evacuation camp behind the regional government center in Barangay Maimpis here, a woman, who wanted to be identified only as Loida, expressed disgust at how the Department of Budget and Management allocated the funds recovered by the defunct Mount Pinatubo Commission (MPC).

"They should have spent the money for housing and livelihood," Loida, a jueteng collector, told the INQUIRER.

Behind her was a jumble of dilapidated tents, plywood and sawali walls. From afar, the aluminum roofs are rusting and secured by the weight of old tires, wood slabs and boulders.

Loida, her husband and their four children have lived in the evacuation center since 1995 after lahar from nearby Bacolor town spilled to their village San Juan.

It was only supposed to be a halfway refuge but her family had stayed for almost seven years.

Many of the 100 families in Maimpis chose to remain despite the P10,000 assistance given by the MPC's Balik Barangay program.

"How can we build our homes on just P10,000? Then they spend all those money in desilting and dredging. But if they really did those, why were the floods worst in the recent weeks?" Loida said.

That money, she said, could ease the lives of many disaster victims, many of whom live on odd jobs.

Like her husband, she said many of her male relatives in Bacolor and San Juan drive pedicabs and do occasional construction work.

She said the government should have spent the money for farming support because most victims were farmers. Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Solon's brod linked to smuggling

BUTUAN CITY—Caraga regional police director Chief Supt. Alberto Olario has linked the younger brother of Rep. Edelmiro Amante in last week's disappearance of a cargo vessel loaded with some P17 million worth of smuggled rice from the port here.

Olario said Nitoy Amante had twice requested him to order the release of MV Rodeo and its cargo, which was seized by police at the Masao Port on July 12.

"He came by requesting and tried to intercede for the release of the impounded rice," Olario told the INQUIRER.

He said he turned down Amante's request because it was illegal and the police have no jurisdiction over port matters.

"But I told him the matter will be referred to the Bureau of Customs (because) we have no jurisdiction over that matter," Olario said.

Olario, however, quickly clarified that Amante did not offer bribe.

He said aside from the younger brother of the former Ramos executive secretary, several businessmen here also repeatedly tried but failed to convince police to release the contraband.

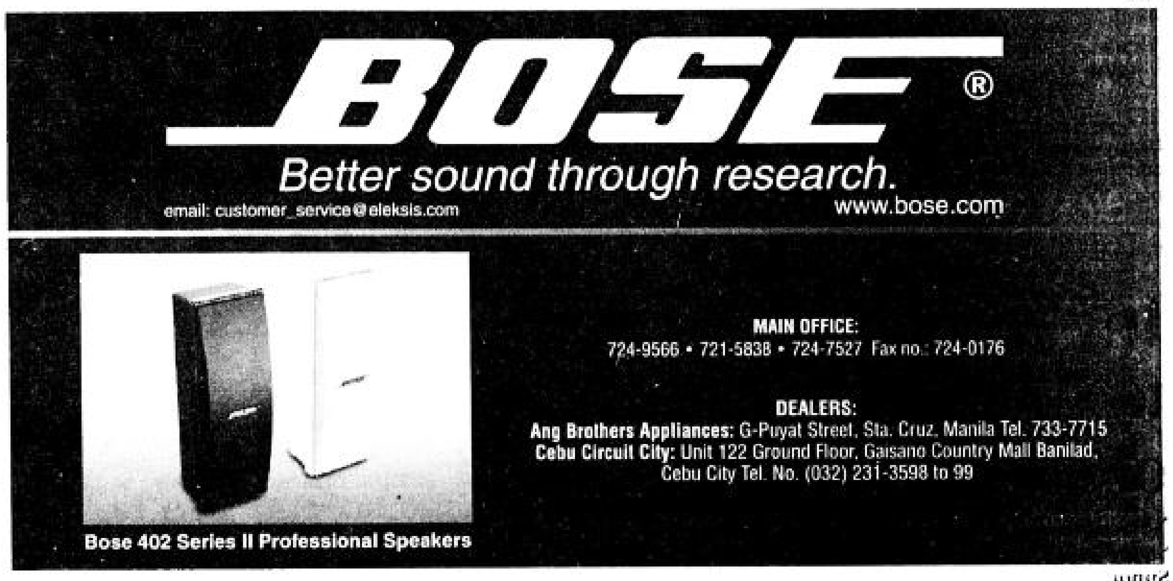
Olario, however, declined to publicly identify the businessmen.

The contraband was being unloaded when authorities caught up with it.

But a few hours after it was impounded, MV Rodeo started to sail for Cebu, this time with a fresh paint dubbed over its vessel identity.

Police fired warning shots but the ship's crew ignored them.

The NBI is investigating the possible involvement of Amante in smuggling here. *Franklin Caliguid, PDI Mindanao Bureau*



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Bidding execs defend mayor's road contract

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya—The chair of the provincial government's bids and awards board, which awarded a P20-million road improvement contract to a mayor, insisted that there was nothing wrong with the mayor's participation in the bidding for the project.

Basilio Rupisan, provincial legal officer and chair of the Prequalification, Bids and Awards Committee (PBAC), said Alfonso Castañeda Mayor Alfredo Castillo, who represented CCF Contractors, did not violate any law when he won the project.

"Mayor Castillo (was) acting only as attorney-in-fact of that construction firm which is owned by a relative. I think there is no legal obstacle for him to represent somebody through a power of attorney," Rupisan told the INQUIRER

The PBAC has chosen Castillo's firm to improve the Oyao-Belance-Binuangan-Guingin road in Dupax del Norte town, which was funded by President Macapagal-Arroyo's social fund.

Ms Macapagal gave a P20-million check for the 15-km mountain road project to Gov. Rodolfo Agbayani during the Bugkalot festival in Barangay Talbec, Dupax del Sur, on Sept. 20 last year.

Renato Ongtao, R.O. Builders owner, denounced how the PBAC supposedly disqualified his firm "arbitrarily" from the bidding, which, he claimed, was "rigged, railroaded and designed to favor someone."

Ongtao also questioned why the PBAC allowed Castillo's participation, which he said, was conflict of interest and a violation of Republic Act 3019 or the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act.

The owners of R.O. Builders filed a graft case and a damage suit against the PBAC.

Rupisan shrugged off the graft case.

"We do not believe that there is a ground for the criminal case. The essence of an anti-graft case is that the government lost. According to (Ongtao), the government lost. (But) what is his proof?" he said.

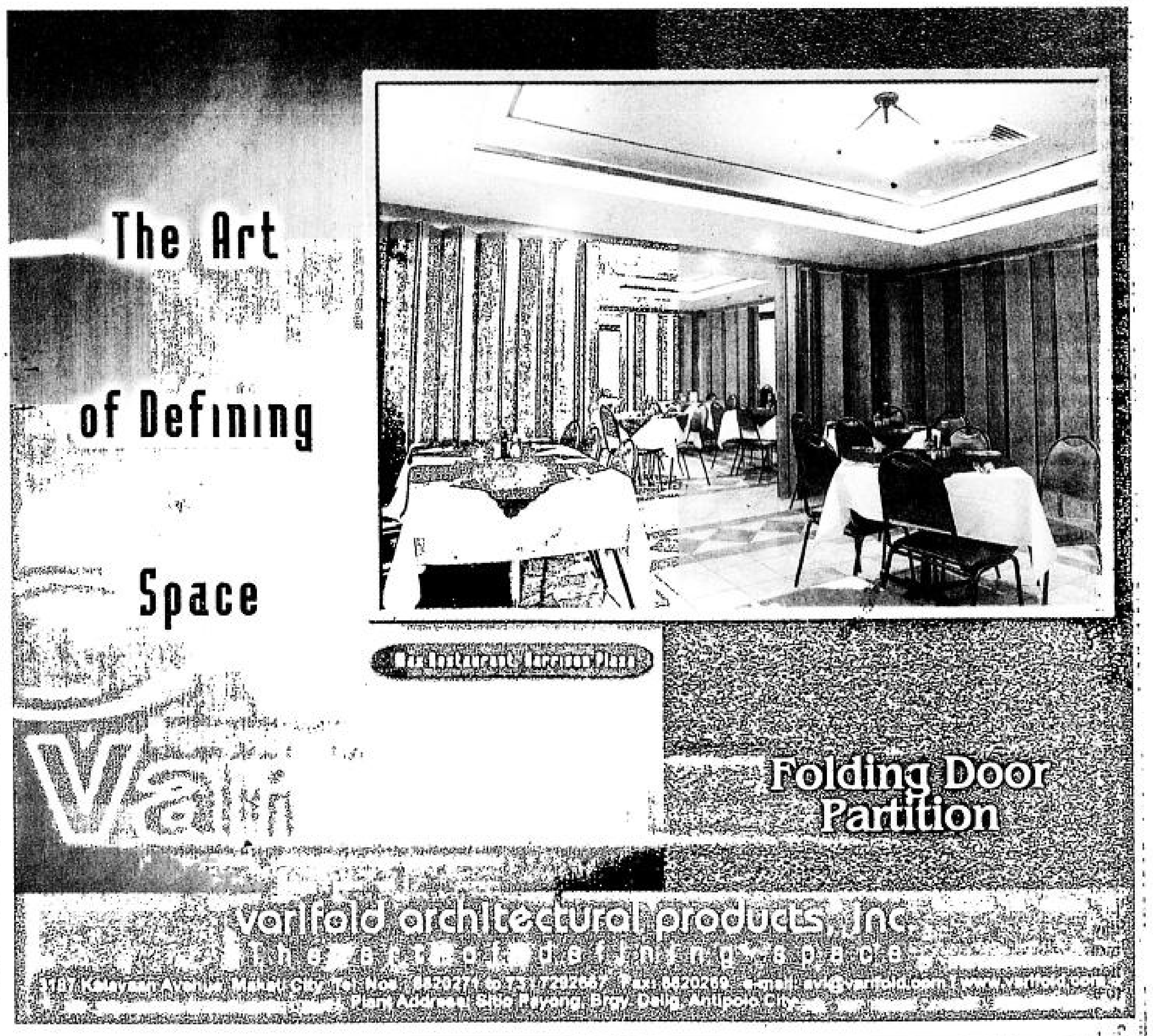
Rupisan said the PBAC decided to disqualify R.O. Builders after the PBAC chose to adopt a set of guidelines for locally funded projects.

Thinking that the project was under the national government, he said the PBAC applied Presidential Decree 1594, which is commonly used for national projects. The rules allowed R.O. Builders to be prequalified, Rupisan said.

"But the PMS (Presidential Management Staff), which gave us the P20 million, said we in the PBAC should apply our guidelines and not PD 1594," he said.

The guidelines disqualified R.O. Builders.

Rupisan also dismissed Ongtao's allegation that the contract was negotiated. *Melvin Gascon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*



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Panel reprimands teacher of boy who died of beating in school

CEBU CITY—The three-man panel of the Cebu City Schools Division has recommended a reprimand against the teacher of seven-year-old Salbert Samonte who died after being beaten inside the premises of the Tejero Elementary School.

Dr. Recaredo Borgonia, Cebu City Assistant School Division superintendent and head of the panel, said their recommendation was already submitted to Department of Education regional director Pablo Antopina for review.

He said Antopina would be the one to submit it to Education Secretary Raul Roco for final approval.

Borgonia explained that they recommended that a "minor sanction" be meted against schoolteacher Josephine Binondo, as she should not be blamed for the death of Samonte, a Grade 1 pupil.

Binondo's only mistake, Borgonia said, was that she did not bring the boy to a clinic or recommended that he be attended by a physician when she saw the child's swollen eye.

Had the boy been brought to a doctor, his condition could have been detected and he could have received treatment.

Samonte was beaten up inside the school's toilet during a recess on July 17, a Wednesday. Binondo noted the child's swollen eye on Friday but accepted the boy's explanation that it was caused by a cockroach bite. The boy died on July 22 in the hospital due to internal bleeding.

Doctors claimed that when Samonte arrived in the hospital in the morning of July 22, his condition was already "hopeless" because his body was no longer responding to medication. *Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau*

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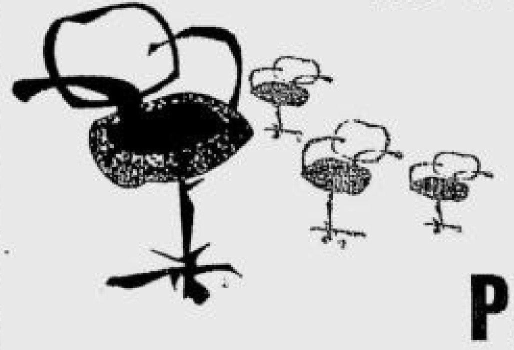

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Western sections of Northern and Central Luzon will experience partly cloudy to cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	HI 33°	Lo 24°
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	HI 24°	Lo 10°
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	HI 34°	Lo 26°
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	HI 31°	Lo 24°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	HI 32°	Lo 24°
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	HI 31°	Lo 23°
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	HI 32°	Lo 24°
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	HI 31°	Lo 24°
Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy	HI 30°	Lo 24°
Roxas	Partly Cloudy	HI 31°	Lo 26°
Cebu	Partly Cloudy	HI 32°	Lo 24°
Tacloban	Partly Cloudy	HI 34°	Lo 25°
Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy	HI 32°	Lo 24°
Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy	HI 33°	Lo 25°
Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy	HI 32°	Lo 23°
Davao	Partly Cloudy	HI 32°	Lo 24°

Compiled by: Ray Loyesa, PDI Research/07/29/02

Police exec suggests study on marijuana use for rituals, healing

BAGUIO CITY—Is culture the motivation that drives some Cordillera farmers to supply the country with 70 percent of its marijuana market?

That question stumped members of the National Law Enforcement Coordinating Council (NLECC), during a session held at Camp John Hay on Friday, where they analyzed the Cordillera region's reputation as the country's top marijuana supplier.

The region generates marijuana from small farms located in the borders of Benguet, Mt. Province, Ifugao and Kalinga, according to the latest police statistics.

Chief Supt. George Alino, Cordillera police director, told Director General Hermogenes Ebdane, Philippine National Police chief and NLECC chair, that destroying plantations during agricultural cycles where seed gestation is most vulnerable would be sufficient to reduce marijuana supply in the future.

Citing the destruction this year of P438-million worth of marijuana plants, Alino said both the police and the military now ignore harvest periods, and instead attack plantations when foot-high marijuana weeds have not yet produced seeds.

Because of the Cordillera's fertile soil, the weed propagates simply by the natural distribution of its seeds, he said.

But the National Police Commission pointed out that Cordillera farmers themselves have been known to use marijuana for its "ritual and medicinal values," a detail which could explain why the government had been unable to completely eradicate these illegal marijuana farms in the last two decades.

Lawyer Efren Fernandez, Napolcom Cordillera director, said a sociological and anthropological study may be necessary to determine this latest information.

A local *mambunong* (ritual priest) said he was unaware of indigenous practices that require marijuana leaves, but he acknowledged that several native healers in Benguet and Mt. Province have used the weed for its hallucinogenic effect on patients.

Jhunie Wahayna, liaison officer of Banaue Mayor Tito Candelario, said some residents in remote areas in Ifugao use marijuana as painkillers, "no more than that."

"I have been hearing about this practice, but I am sure it is only to quell the pain of people who cannot stand their medical problems. Otherwise, the more urban town of Banaue already considers marijuana as an illegal drug substance," he said.

A directory of herbs describes the marijuana breed found in the Cordillera as originating from an African variety.

The Dangerous Drugs Board (DDB), however, said medical reports acknowledged by the World Health Organization already dispute the supposed medicinal attributes of marijuana, although hospitals in California use the weed on selected patients.

Bernard Lastimoso, DDB executive director, said unless the WHO recognizes any other contrary studies on marijuana, the government will still subscribe to a 1986 study prepared by the University of California, which could not identify any medicinal component from the weed. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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Mindanao to ban Luzon meat products

DAVAO CITY—Starting Aug. 1, semi-processed meat from Luzon, including tocinos, would also be banned from entering Mindanao and other Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD)-free areas in the country.

The agriculture department's implementation of a more stringent measure on the entry of non-processed meat and other meat products from Luzon came about after hog-raisers and meat processors in Mindanao raised concern over the presence of Lucban tocinos in big supermarkets on the island.

Dr. Gene Bacayo, director of the DA's Quarantine Services in Southern Mindanao, said they would include "unfully processed meat" in the ban.

Bacayo said even as most meat products from Luzon were processed, these failed to pass Administrative Order No. 5 or the Revised Rules and Regulations on the Control and Eradication of Foot and Mouth Disease.

AO 5 modified AO 15.

Under the new regulation passed in January this year, meat from FMD-infected areas must undergo full transformation in an internal temperature of 70 degrees Celsius for 30 minutes to ensure that viruses were killed.

The order also bans the transporting of disease-susceptible animals or their unprocessed semen and embryo or ova; fresh frozen or chilled meat; uncooked meat products and other meat by-products, to Mindanao.

Teresita Pascual, general manager of Cecilia Stock Farms Inc., told Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor that meat processors and hog-raisers in Mindanao were wondering about the entry of meat products from Luzon.

"These should have not been shipped down south," Pascual told Montemayor.

Pascual said the shipment of meat products from FMD-affected areas might hamper the accreditation of Mindanao and that it might even jeopardize their opportunity to capture foreign markets for their products. *Ayan Mellejor, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

CEBU SITUATIONER

Dengue rise worries health execs

By Jolene R. Bulambot
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—In just seven months the number of dengue cases in Cebu has reached 595, a finding that worries the regional officials of the Department of Health.

The Regional Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit of the DOH in Central Visayas has reported that from January to July this year, 15 deaths caused by dengue fever have been recorded.

The DOH-Central Visayas (DOH-7) record showed that seven of the victims died in January, one in February, three in May and one this month. Six of the fatalities were from Cebu City, two from Toledo City, and one each from the cities of Danao and Lapu-lapu and the towns of Carmen, Minglanilla, San Fernando, San Remegio and Tabuelan.

The data further showed that most of the dengue victims were below nine-years-old. Of the fatalities, the oldest was 66 years old and the youngest was a two-month-old infant.

Dr. Maria Soccoro Entera of DOH-7 said they were expecting that more dengue fever cases would be reported since the rainy season is not yet over.

Entera said the rising number of dengue cases should be taken seriously but that there was no cause for alarm yet since the situation was still controllable.

"We already have taken remedial measures like further surveillance especially in the highly urbanized areas and we strengthen our campaign against dengue," Entera said.

She said the DOH-7 has also constantly reminded their provincial health offices on how to handle dengue fever cases.

Cebu City has the highest reported dengue cases with 272, followed by Talisay City (63), Toledo City (41), Danao City (26), Mandaue City (26), San Remegio (20), Minglanilla (16), Lapu-lapu City (16), Bogo (13), Carmen (10), and Argao (10).

Entera said data from their central office reported that Cebu province ranked number one among provinces having the most dengue cases.

She attributed the increase in dengue cases to the rainy season, congested households, lack of waste disposal systems and safe water sources.

Dengue fever is caused by day-biting mosquito *aedes aegypti*, which breeds in stagnant and clear water. Its breeding places include water vases, empty cans or plastic containers.

Entera said dengue is sometimes mistaken to be flu, measles, malaria or typhoid fever. She advised parents to immediately bring to the nearest health center any family member suffering from high fever.

Entera advised parents not to give aspirin to the victims because the drug could cause bleeding and could even result in death. She advised giving paracetamol instead.

The DOH-7, in an advisory, has urged the public to initiate clean-up drives in homes and communities and to properly dispose of plastics, cans, old tires that may serve as larva breeding sites.

The 11 Golden Rules of Blood Pressure Monitoring

What YOU need to KNOW about BLOOD PRESSURE Monitoring

1 Relax for at least 10 – 15 minutes before taking your blood pressure. Blood pressure tends to vary according to emotional condition.

2 Avoid BP readings when irritated, constipated, worried, lacking sleep or stressed out. These may raise your BP above normal.

3 Avoid Blood Pressure immediately after meals, coffee or tea as well as smoking. These activities raise your blood pressure.

4 Don't contort your body when taking a reading as this may cause circulatory congestion. Sit up straight and position the cuff at heart level.

5 Blood pressure tends to rise after exercise and bathing. Rest for 20 minutes before measuring your BP to prevent inaccurate readings.

6 Room temperature should be around 20°C (=68°F). Temperature extremes can cause circulatory changes that affect blood pressure.

7 If you have to lie, lie on your back when taking your blood pressure. Lying on your side gives a different reading.

8 Avoid repeated measurements within a short period as this might congest your arm with blood, causing inaccurate blood pressure readings.

9 Use cuff directly over the skin. If you have to use it over fabric, do so over sleeves made of thin materials to prevent incorrect reading.

10 Keep still during measurement to avoid inaccurate readings.

11 For best results, select a specific time each day of monitoring and compare your readings. Blood Pressure varies with the hours of the day.

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Bishop protests planned casino

By Yolanda Fuertes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

CALASIAO, Pangasinan—A Catholic bishop urged officials and residents to oppose the plan of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor) to put up a casino in a hotel here.

In a letter to parishioners, Archbishop Oscar Cruz of the Lingayen-Dagupan diocese asked the town officials to "exert extra effort" in resisting the establishment of a casino.

Cruz, immediate past president of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, said a parishioner alerted him on the "planned soft opening" of the casino at the Pangasinan Regency Hotel here on July 26.

The invitation was reportedly made by the Casino Filipino Angeles.

Cruz said the hotel could be "testing the waters" and would go full blast "if the casino clicks."

"With big sadness, I bring you bad news. There are some people in Calasiao who are attempting to put up a casino in your place. (They) are intending to make your (town) a gathering place of big gamblers, of merciless loan sharks and of different kinds of shady characters, all associated with casinos," Cruz said.

"In gambling, only the capitalists are the big winners. Everybody else are . . . losers," he added.

Delmer Cruz, deputy administrator of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (Owwa), said thousands of residents will protest the casino.

Adolfo Fernandez, owner of the Pangasinan Regency Hotel, denied the plan.

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Deputy ombudsman dies

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—Juan Mendoza Hagad, the first deputy Ombudsman for the Visayas, died of a heart attack on Thursday in a hospital in Bacolod City, Negros Occidental. He was 81.

Andy Hagad said his father was first brought to the Bacolod Sanitarium and Hospital on Monday because of pneumonia.

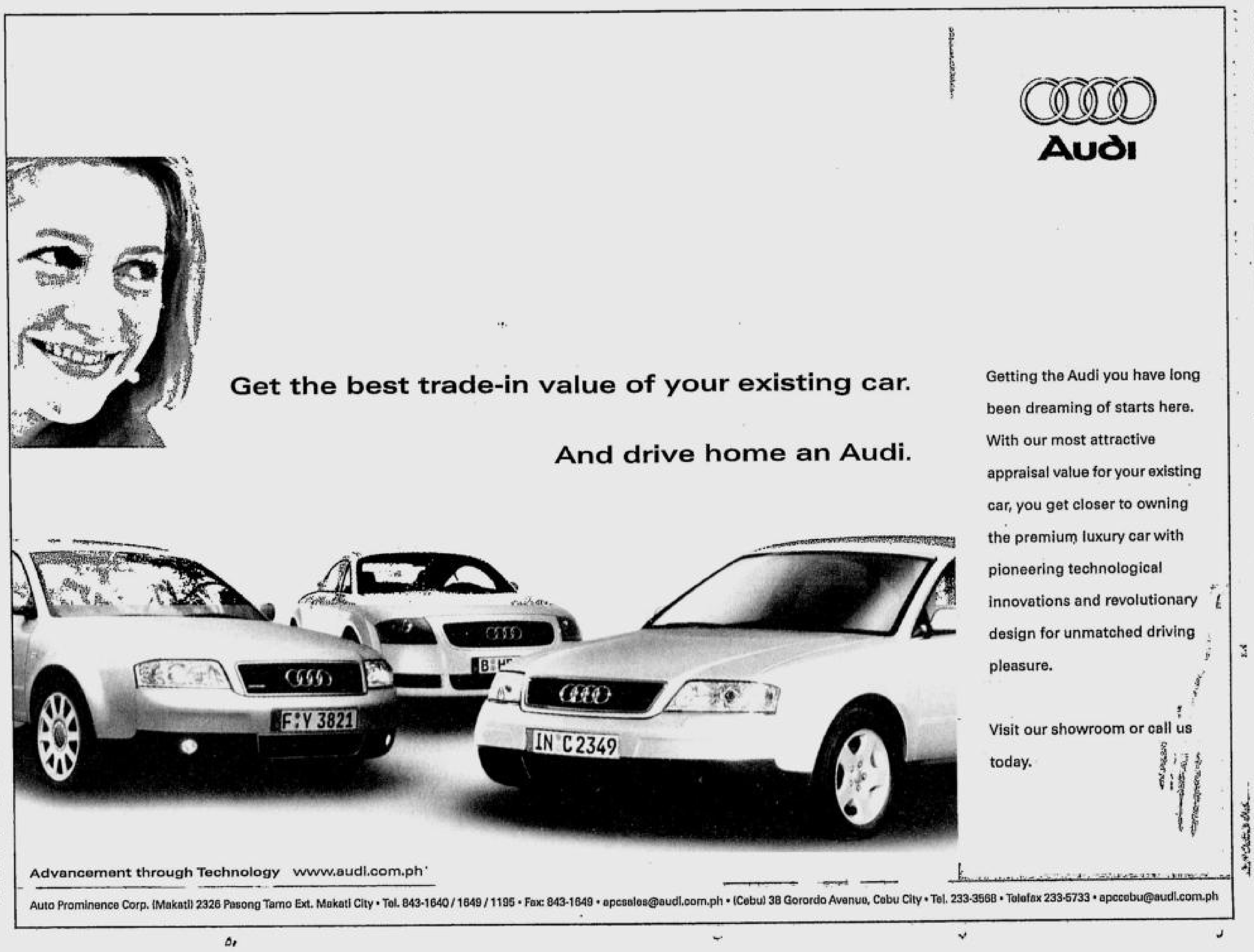
He was moved to the Riverside Medical Center on Wednesday. But about 11 a.m. the next day, he suffered a cardiac arrest and died.

His body lies at the Alisbo Memorial Chapel in Barangay Mandalagan, Bacolod City.

He will be buried Aug. 1 at the Sacred Heart Memorial Park in Barangay Sum-ag after an 8 a.m. Mass at the Sacred Shrine in Lupit.

Hagad is survived by children Andy, Betty, Charlie, Danny, Estrella, Felix and Greg. His wife Estella Hilado died on Sept. 2, 1997.

Hagad placed second in the 1949 bar exams and authored the book "Looking Back for Tomorrow" and several law books.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Powell faces political storm

From page A1

peasant leader Rafael Mariano said in a statement.

His group, the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas, called for "the immediate halt of the ongoing and scheduled Balikatan 'exercises' while investigations are pending in Congress."

The militant fisherfolk group, Pamalakaya, accused both the President and Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes of giving "US soldiers like Reggie Lane full blanket authority to fire guns on ordinary folks just to please the US mercenaries and troublemakers."

Pamalakaya chair Fernando Hicap said his group supported Bayan Muna's call for a congressional inquiry.

"This is intervention by American soldiers in purely internal affairs," Ocampo said on Saturday.

In Congress, Akbayan party-list Rep. Etta Rosales said the House civil, political and human rights committee which she chairs will call for an investigation, jointly with the House foreign affairs committee.

But in Zamboanga City, Carolina said the Isnijal controversy was a "last-ditch effort by the anti-Americans and anti-Balikatan to cry foul because the joint military exercise is about to end."

The six-month-long Balikatan 02-1 ends on Wednesday.

Spokespersons for both the Armed Forces and the US troops taking part in Balikatan denied Americans were involved in Wednesday's operation.

"The reports are not true. We are not here to take part in police operations," Sater said. "Our mission is to train and advise Philippine soldiers and that's what we are doing."

Lt. Col. Fredesvindo Covarrubias said the suspect was wounded when he tried to grab the gun of one of the AFP soldiers who had come to arrest him and the gun accidentally went off, hitting him in the leg.

"I welcome any investigation, provided it would be conducted by an institution with vested authority," Carolina said.

The newly promoted SouthCom chief, one of the candidates for AFP chief of staff, said Isnijal was not an ordinary criminal but a feared member of the Abu Sayyaf.

He said that even Lamitan Parish priest Fr. Cirilo Nacorda, who heavily criticizes the military, confirmed Isnijal's membership in the bandit group.

Col. Alexander Aleo, commander of the Army's 103rd Infantry Brigade, said Isnijal belonged to a faction headed by commander Tanad Nasalun of Tuburan.

Aside from his being an Abu Sayyaf member, Aleo said that Isnijal was also wanted for the murder of a village official. He also faces a rape case.

The identity of Lane, Lt. Col. Danilo Servando said, was supplied by one of the doctors at the hospital where Isnijal was brought.

"I think the Americans were the ones who helped him and (are now) being accused of shooting him. This is all propaganda by militant groups who plan to carry out their plan in time for the July 31 closing of Balikatan 02-1. They just want to build up a case to foster their propaganda plans," Servando said.

GMA vs Reds

In Guagua, the President told reporters she had asked Defense Secretary Reyes to look into the alleged incident.

But she said it was up to "the communists" to prove their allegations.

"I don't know why they get mad when I call them communists because after all communism is not against the law," she said.

"We are just being accurate. They construe it as pejorative. It's just a neutral term. It just connotes the ideology so that everyone would know where everyone is coming from."

She added: "That's why I'm going to bring out these atrocities (that the Abu Sayyaf bandits) have been doing. If they don't do that, we will highlight (it)."

The President, in an interview with the Inquirer held shortly after she cast her vote in Lubao town's delayed barangay elections, cited the ransacking of homes, the beheading of men and the raping of women in Balobo, Lamitan and Isabela in Basilan as among the atrocities committed by the Abu Sayyaf.

Citing reports from Maj. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon, then commander of the Army's 103rd Brigade, Ms Macapagal said these atrocities happened in September last year.

"That's where you have the rampant, very, very clear human right violations," she said.

She said she would present the victims and their relatives in a press conference in Malacañang today, and added that she was encouraging them to file cases against the bandit group.

Sometime during lunch, Ms Macapagal spoke with Justice Undersecretary Manuel Teehankee over the phone, instructing him to appoint a prosecutor on cases already filed and about to be filed against the Abu Sayyaf.

"I want to make sure these (cases) move fast and be given preferential attention," the President said.

Concocted statement?

Carolina said Judaira's story was "concocted," but Ocampo said an ordinary housewife could not have been wrong in describing her husband's attacker.

Ocampo said Judaira had made it clear that the attacker was stocky, tall and black. He said the suspect's wife had a flashlight that night and she clearly saw "a black American and two others who were white."

Carolina's statements offended members of the International Solidarity Movement, an international mission of peace activists looking into reports of human rights violations, who visited Basilan over the weekend.

"How shocking. I could not believe that a respected general like him could say those words," Chicago-based Rev. Dan Dale said. Malcolm Guy, an American independent filmmaker, said Carolina's attitude made him fear for the lives of Basilan witnesses.

Mary Grenough of the MaryKnoll Sisters, from New York, said she was also worried about the safety of the witnesses against Lane.

"If they could easily judge a person as an Abu Sayyaf (member) and with that general's statement against the wife, I think something should have to be done for the security of the witnesses," she said.

She said it was impossible for Judaira to lie because there were 10 military men present when she executed her affidavit.

"She has testified in the presence of the 10 uniformed military (men), so how could that (testimony) be labeled as extracted or dictated?" Grenough asked.

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From page A1

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Approximately 193,000 Filipinos were issued non-immigrant visa last year, according to US Embassy officials, and there are about 3 million members of the Filipino community in the United States.

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The INS reiterated last week that it had resurrected a 58-year-old law requiring non-citizens to report their change of address and to register as an alien.

The registration and fingerprinting of aliens, which include taking down their most current addresses, have been in the books since 1940 under Section 30 or 31 of the Alien Registration Act of that year.

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To drive home the point, Thar Adeljaber (a green card holder with a green card holder wife, four kids—two of whom are US citizens—the other also two green card holders) is reported to have been placed under removal (deportation) proceedings for failure to inform the INS promptly of his change of address. Adeljaber is from Palestine.

Will being a Filipino help, or exempt a *kababayan* from being placed under deportation or removal proceedings? No. Despite the government's partnership with the United States for the "Balikatan" exercises and President Macapagal-Arroyo's claim that the Philippines is now a global participant in the campaign against terrorism.

It depends on how much the INS likes to do, or can do, given the enormous resources it needs to effectively implement this registration, fingerprinting and monitoring of non-citizens in the United States.

Non-citizens, according to recent estimates, can be anywhere from 10 million to 12 million, including green card holders and other non-immigrants: tourists, those on working visas, treaty traders, investors, intra-company transferees and students.

"To put somebody in deportation proceedings for failing to report a change of address is like using a nuclear bomb to kill a fly," said Denyse Sabagh, an immigration lawyer in Washington. "It's definitely punitive."

Justice department officials, however, described the plan as "an important step to enhance border security" and an attempt to address the problem of non-citizens avoiding removal from the United States by leaving INS officials in the dark about their whereabouts.

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Basis for INS Action

Attorney General John Aschroft says this new INS policy is really more than 58 years old, although newly dressed up in several sections of the Immigration and Nationality Act ("Act").

According to Section 262 of the Act, "it is the duty of any alien over 14 years old, who remains in the United States more than 30 days, to be registered and fingerprinted." While aliens admitted for permanent residence are not required, it does not prevent the INS from pursuing removal proceedings against a green card holder as in the case of the Palestinian immigrant.

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Failure to comply will result in the alien's name being included in the Arrest and Warrants List. If he or she is stopped for a traffic violation and his/her name is on the list, the alien will be detained through the INS Quick Response Team.

The alien at this point would at best be deported or removed and at worst be subject to criminal prosecution—and still be deported after serving his or her term.

(Editor's note: Crispin R. Aranda is a US-based immigrant specialist and executive director of the Immigrant Visa Center. He can be reached at usvisacenter@yahoo.com.)

Al arez on way out as DENR chief, says Bunye

From p A1

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Name-droppers

Alvarez said he had had enough of name-droppers in the administration party, referring to Pichay. Alvarez is the secretary general of the ruling Lakas-NUCD, which Ms Macapagal chairs. Pichay, who has been a party member since 1998, heads the chapter in the Caraga region.

Alvarez said Pichay came to see him on several occasions to ask for the unconditional "automatic conversion" of Picop's TLA into an Ifma. The environment secretary said Pichay had been acting on behalf of Bernardino.

Before he became a representative, Pichay was a distributor of newsprint produced by Picop and publisher of the tabloid "Remate," which, like most newspapers, gets its newsprint from Picop.

On Oct. 11, 2001, Ms Macapagal gave verbal instructions to Alvarez to convert Picop's TLA into an Ifma, reportedly after a meeting with Pichay and Bernardino in Malacañang.

Alvarez said that the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) had complied with the President's instructions and started the process of conversion of Picop's TLA into an Ifma.

Picop's unpaid debts

But Pichay and Bernardino wanted an unconditional "automatic conversion," setting aside issues like Picop's unpaid forest charges and surcharges amounting to P37.36 million for logs produced from January to December 2001, according to Alvarez.

Automatic conversions are allowed by law provided the TLA holder has shown satisfactory performance and has complied with the terms and conditions of the TLA.

The defunct Economic Intelligence and Investigation Bureau (EIIB), former enforcement arm of the Bureau of Customs, said in a 1998 report that Picop was liable for misdeclaring timber species and for downgrading of regular logs.

The EIIB also said that Picop produced in excess of the allowed volume and paid the government weekly forest charges late. The agency said Picop owed the government at the time more than P470 million.

The EIIB recommended the collection of the P470 million and the immediate suspension of Picop's logging operations. The recommendations, however, were never carried out, and the EIIB was abolished by former President Joseph Estrada in February 2000.

Presidential warranty

Alvarez said that despite unsettled charges and other violations by Picop as noted by the EIIB, Pichay and Bernardino were pushing for a presidential warranty from Ms Macapagal similar to the one issued by the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos in 1969.

The presidential warranty established the boundaries of the logging concession of Picop and gave the company exclusive right to cut, collect and remove saw timber and pulpwood in the concession area from 1969 to 1977. The warranty was renewable for another 25 years.

"Mr. Bernardino's insistence on automatic conversion meant government's outright condonation of the illegal acts in violation of Presidential Decree No. 705 or the Philippine Forestry Code," Alvarez said.

Expired SEC registration

Picop's 50-year corporate term has expired and remained unrenewed as of July 16, according to the environment secretary.

Alvarez said Picop must first renew its registration with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and settle its financial obligations before it could demand a logging franchise.

He said the DENR had already given Picop one year to resolve its problems and settle its obligations under Picop's own Transition Development Management Plan.

Alvarez asked the President to call upon the SEC, the Department of Trade and Industry, the Bureau of Internal Revenue, the Department of Justice and the Philippine National Police to investigate the case.

Sources said Alvarez was open to harassment by members of Congress because the Commission on Appointments had yet to confirm him.

Alvarez said in his letter to the President that there were "considerable pressures being exerted by prominent politicians and businessmen like Congressman Pichay and Mr. Bernardino."

"What Mr. Pichay lobbied in private, he sought to achieve through pressure tactics at the Commission on Appointments at my confirmation hearings and through the media," Alvarez said.

Shannlyne

Pichay, in an earlier unpublished interview, did not deny helping Picop get an Ifma from the DENR. He accused Alvarez of favoring another logging firm, Shannlyne, which was recently granted an Ifma to log a 110,700-ha area in Caraga.

Pichay said Picop's TLA deserved to be converted into an Ifma because the firm was in good standing.

"If it is a crime to help a company employing 5,000 people and benefiting 15,0000 families . . . then I plead guilty," Pichay told the Inquirer.

Pichay two weeks ago filed a graft complaint against Alvarez with the Office of the Ombudsman for entering into an Ifma with Shannlyne, which, the legislator said, was foreign-controlled.

The Constitution limits co-production accords for the exploitation, development and use of the country's natural resources to firms or associations at least 60-percent owned by Filipinos.'

The case was used by Pichay in opposing Alvarez's confirmation by the CA.

Ill-gotten

But it was Pichay's turn last week to face a graft complaint. The leader of the Anti-Graft League of Surigao del Sur accused Pichay of amassing ill-gotten and unexplained wealth.

The complainant, Mario Lumanao, alleged that Pichay did not report in his 1998 Statement of Assets and Liabilities a number of properties like two Piper planes, RP-C1167 and RP-C1254, worth P10 million, and a house and lot on a beach in Barangay San Pedro in Cantilan town valued at P10 million.

Lumanao said the beach house was being built by the contractor of most of Pichay's "concreting projects" in his district.

Based on Pichay's SAL, the congressman has no legitimate business, except the tabloid publishing firm Carlo Publishing and radio station dzME, "which are not earning income for him to afford the said properties," Lumanao said.

Pichay declared a net worth of P23 million in 1998. The congressman, who sold his shares in the media companies, had a net worth of P26 million last year.

Powell faces political storm

From page A1

peasant leader Rafael Mariano said in a statement.

His group, the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas, called for "the immediate halt of the ongoing and scheduled Balikatan 'exercises' while investigations are pending in Congress."

The militant fisherfolk group, Pamalakaya, accused both the President and Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes of giving "US soldiers like Reggie Lane full blanket authority to fire guns on ordinary folks just to please the US mercenaries and troublemakers."

Pamalakaya chair Fernando Hicap said his group supported Bayan Muna's call for a congressional inquiry.

"This is intervention by American soldiers in purely internal affairs," Ocampo said on Saturday.

In Congress, Akbayan party-list Rep. Etta Rosales said the House civil, political and human rights committee which she chairs will call for an investigation, jointly with the House foreign affairs committee.

But in Zamboanga City, Carolina said the Isnijal controversy was a "last-ditch effort by the anti-Americans and anti-Balikatan to cry foul because the joint military exercise is about to end."

The six-month-long Balikatan 02-1 ends on Wednesday.

Spokespersons for both the Armed Forces and the US troops taking part in Balikatan denied Americans were involved in Wednesday's operation.

"The reports are not true. We are not here to take part in police operations," Sater said. "Our mission is to train and advise Philippine soldiers and that's what we are doing."

Lt. Col. Fredesvindo Covarrubias said the suspect was wounded when he tried to grab the gun of one of the AFP soldiers who had come to arrest him and the gun accidentally went off, hitting him in the leg.

"I welcome any investigation, provided it would be conducted by an institution with vested authority," Carolina said.

The newly promoted SouthCom chief, one of the candidates for AFP chief of staff, said Isnijal was not an ordinary criminal but a feared member of the Abu Sayyaf.

He said that even Lamitan Parish priest Fr. Cirilo Nacorda, who heavily criticizes the military, confirmed Isnijal's membership in the bandit group.

Col. Alexander Aleo, commander of the Army's 103rd Infantry Brigade, said Isnijal belonged to a faction headed by commander Tanad Nasalun of Tuburan.

Aside from his being an Abu Sayyaf member, Aleo said that Isnijal was also wanted for the murder of a village official. He also faces a rape case.

The identity of Lane, Lt. Col. Danilo Servando said, was supplied by one of the doctors at the hospital where Isnijal was brought.

"I think the Americans were the ones who helped him and (are now) being accused of shooting him. This is all propaganda by militant groups who plan to carry out their plan in time for the July 31 closing of Balikatan 02-1. They just want to build up a case to foster their propaganda plans," Servando said.

GMA vs Reds

In Guagua, the President told reporters she had asked Defense Secretary Reyes to look into the alleged incident.

But she said it was up to "the communists" to prove their allegations.

"I don't know why they get mad when I call them communists because after all communism is not against the law," she said.

"We are just being accurate. They construe it as pejorative. It's just a neutral term. It just connotes the ideology so that everyone would know where everyone is coming from."

She added: "That's why I'm going to bring out these atrocities (that the Abu Sayyaf bandits) have been doing. If they don't do that, we will highlight (it)."

The President, in an interview with the Inquirer held shortly after she cast her vote in Lubao town's delayed barangay elections, cited the ransacking of homes, the beheading of men and the raping of women in Balobo, Lamitan and Isabela in Basilan as among the atrocities committed by the Abu Sayyaf.

Citing reports from Maj. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon, then commander of the Army's 103rd Brigade, Ms Macapagal said these atrocities happened in September last year.

"That's where you have the rampant, very, very clear human right violations," she said.

She said she would present the victims and their relatives in a press conference in Malacañang today, and added that she was encouraging them to file cases against the bandit group.

Sometime during lunch, Ms Macapagal spoke with Justice Undersecretary Manuel Teehankee over the phone, instructing him to appoint a prosecutor on cases already filed and about to be filed against the Abu Sayyaf.

"I want to make sure these (cases) move fast and be given preferential attention," the President said.

Concocted statement?

Carolina said Judaira's story was "concocted," but Ocampo said an ordinary housewife could not have been wrong in describing her husband's attacker.

Ocampo said Judaira had made it clear that the attacker was stocky, tall and black. He said the suspect's wife had a flashlight that night and she clearly saw "a black American and two others who were white."

Carolina's statements offended members of the International Solidarity Movement, an international mission of peace activists looking into reports of human rights violations, who visited Basilan over the weekend.

"How shocking. I could not believe that a respected general like him could say those words," Chicago-based Rev. Dan Dale said. Malcolm Guy, an American independent filmmaker, said Carolina's attitude made him fear for the lives of Basilan witnesses.

Mary Grenough of the MaryKnoll Sisters, from New York, said she was also worried about the safety of the witnesses against Lane.

"If they could easily judge a person as an Abu Sayyaf (member) and with that general's statement against the wife, I think something should have to be done for the security of the witnesses," she said.

She said it was impossible for Judaira to lie because there were 10 military men present when she executed her affidavit.

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Alvarez said that the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) had complied with the President's instructions and started the process of conversion of Picop's TLA into an Ifma.

Picop's unpaid debts

But Pichay and Bernardino wanted an unconditional "automatic conversion," setting aside issues like Picop's unpaid forest charges and surcharges amounting to P37.36 million for logs produced from January to December 2001, according to Alvarez.

Automatic conversions are allowed by law provided the TLA holder has shown satisfactory performance and has complied with the terms and conditions of the TLA.

The defunct Economic Intelligence and Investigation Bureau (EIIB), former enforcement arm of the Bureau of Customs, said in a 1998 report that Picop was liable for misdeclaring timber species and for downgrading of regular logs.

The EIIB also said that Picop produced in excess of the allowed volume and paid the government weekly forest charges late. The agency said Picop owed the government at the time more than P470 million.

The EIIB recommended the collection of the P470 million and the immediate suspension of Picop's logging operations. The recommendations, however, were never carried out, and the EIIB was abolished by former President Joseph Estrada in February 2000.

Presidential warranty

Alvarez said that despite unsettled charges and other violations by Picop as noted by the EIIB, Pichay and Bernardino were pushing for a presidential warranty from Ms Macapagal similar to the one issued by the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos in 1969.

The presidential warranty established the boundaries of the logging concession of Picop and gave the company exclusive right to cut, collect and remove saw timber and pulpwood in the concession area from 1969 to 1977. The warranty was renewable for another 25 years.

"Mr. Bernardino's insistence on automatic conversion meant government's outright condonation of the illegal acts in violation of Presidential Decree No. 705 or the Philippine Forestry Code," Alvarez said.

Expired SEC registration

Picop's 50-year corporate term has expired and remained unrenewed as of July 16, according to the environment secretary.

Alvarez said Picop must first renew its registration with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and settle its financial obligations before it could demand a logging franchise.

He said the DENR had already given Picop one year to resolve its problems and settle its obligations under Picop's own Transition Development Management Plan.

Alvarez asked the President to call upon the SEC, the Department of Trade and Industry, the Bureau of Internal Revenue, the Department of Justice and the Philippine National Police to investigate the case.

Sources said Alvarez was open to harassment by members of Congress because the Commission on Appointments had yet to confirm him.

Alvarez said in his letter to the President that there were "considerable pressures being exerted by prominent politicians and businessmen like Congressman Pichay and Mr. Bernardino."

"What Mr. Pichay lobbied in private, he sought to achieve through pressure tactics at the Commission on Appointments at my confirmation hearings and through the media," Alvarez said.

Shannlyne

Pichay, in an earlier unpublished interview, did not deny helping Picop get an Ifma from the DENR. He accused Alvarez of favoring another logging firm, Shannlyne, which was recently granted an Ifma to log a 110,700-ha area in Caraga.

Pichay said Picop's TLA deserved to be converted into an Ifma because the firm was in good standing.

"If it is a crime to help a company employing 5,000 people and benefiting 15,0000 families . . . then I plead guilty," Pichay told the Inquirer.

Pichay two weeks ago filed a graft complaint against Alvarez with the Office of the Ombudsman for entering into an Ifma with Shannlyne, which, the legislator said, was foreign-controlled.

The Constitution limits co-production accords for the exploitation, development and use of the country's natural resources to firms or associations at least 60-percent owned by Filipinos.'

The case was used by Pichay in opposing Alvarez's confirmation by the CA.

Ill-gotten

But it was Pichay's turn last week to face a graft complaint. The leader of the Anti-Graft League of Surigao del Sur accused Pichay of amassing ill-gotten and unexplained wealth.

The complainant, Mario Lumanao, alleged that Pichay did not report in his 1998 Statement of Assets and Liabilities a number of properties like two Piper planes, RP-C1167 and RP-C1254, worth P10 million, and a house and lot on a beach in Barangay San Pedro in Cantilan town valued at P10 million.

Lumanao said the beach house was being built by the contractor of most of Pichay's "concreting projects" in his district.

Based on Pichay's SAL, the congressman has no legitimate business, except the tabloid publishing firm Carlo Publishing and radio station dzME, "which are not earning income for him to afford the said properties," Lumanao said.

Pichay declared a net worth of P23 million in 1998. The congressman, who sold his shares in the media companies, had a net worth of P26 million last year.

SOUTHEAST ASIA SHIPPING CORPORATION

20th. Anniversary

Messages

Philippine Overseas Employment Administration

On behalf of the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA), I would like to congratulate the Southeast Asia Shipping Corporation for its twenty years of dedicated service to the global maritime industry in general and the Filipino seafarers, in particular.

The Philippine manning industry, through the years, has been a major provider of quality seafarers to the world's merchant marine fleet. Our country has sustained that distinction because we all share the common goal of meeting the international seafaring standards and requirements. I am certain that Southeast Asia Shipping Corporation will continue to do its share by implementing programs that will ensure the global competitiveness of the industry and at the same time uplift the work and living standards of the seafarers and their families.

MABUHAY PO KAYONG LAHAT!

Abaldoz
ROSALINDA DIMAPILIS-BALDOZ
Administrator

SOUTHEAST ASIA SHIPPING CORPORATION

The Philippines has gained the distinction as the manning capital of the world. Filipino seafarers continue to be in demand for employment by foreign shipowners. Southeast Asia Shipping Corporation is proud to be a part of the manning sector as it continues to provide employment to world-class Filipino seafarers.

I am cognizant of the growing competition from other seamen-supplying countries but I am confident that with the full support of the government, the manning industry will hurdle all obstacles towards its march to progress and prosperity.

ROMEO D. DALUSONG
President

SOUTHEAST Asia Shipping Corporation (SEASCORP) is celebrating its 20th Founding Anniversary today. Two decades ago, the company was established to participate in the recruitment of seafarers for overseas employment. It was a propitious moment. Worldwide shipping business was thriving, which created a huge demand for shipboard personnel. Foreign shipowners are hiring Filipino seamen who are noted for their competence, industry and facility with the English language. On July 29, 1982, the company was formally registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission primarily to serve as manning agent to foreign shipowners. Forthwith, it embarked on an aggressive marketing campaign and commenced recruitment activities on behalf of Japanese shipowners in the Far East route. Through sheer hard work and determination, the company expanded its network of satisfied clients and in 1985, it was appointed the exclusive manning agent of a Saudi-British firm which handled the off-shore and harbor operations at the King Fahad Industrial Port of Dammam, Jubail and Rastanura in Saudi Arabia. SEASCORP deployed several hundred seamen for the duration of the contract term. The company gained expertise in the selection and hiring of certified crewmembers in accordance with the requirements of STCW 1978 as amended in 1995.

The company is staffed by energetic and highly motivated professionals with long track record in the shipping industry. All phases of work activities are documented in accordance with a quality management system which is customer-focused and currently undergoing certification to ISO 9001:2000. SEASCORP is committed to continuously meet and exceed the requirements of shipowners through quality service.

For the coming years, the company is projecting a stronger performance which will translate to more employment for deserving seafarers and which, in turn, will generate much-needed foreign exchange for the country.

On the occasion of the company's 20th Anniversary, a get-together party was held at the Century Park Hotel last July 26, 2002, which was attended by guests from the government and private sectors.

TÜV
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Philippi

Southeast Asia Shipping Corporation (SEASCORP) is being certified to ISO:9001-2000 At right photo is Mr. Michael Janecke, Director of TUV Rheinland Ltd. and Atty. Romeo Dalusong of SEASCORP

The officers and staff of Southeast Asia Shipping Corporation during an office function

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Pope: You can't build city of man without God

From page A1

spiritual dimension.

The answer: "Christ alone is the cornerstone on which it is possible to build one's existence."

"The 20th century often tried to do without that cornerstone and attempted to build the city of man without reference to Him. It ended by actually building that city against man," John Paul said.

He urged young people to be the builders of a "civilization of love" and learn "to build brick by brick, the city of God within the city of man."

John Paul waved at the leaping, shouting young people along the route of his "Popemobile" as it made its way to a giant stage adorned with the cross, which was visible for kilometers.

Among those in the crowd was Prime Minister Jean Chretien, wearing a suit and tie despite temperatures that reached the high 31 degrees Celsius.

For one of the few times so far on the trip that began Tuesday, John Paul used a cart pushed by aides to cross the stage, his normal practice in recent months. In Canada, he had made a point of walking with a cane, usually with an aide holding his arm.

Singing songs and carrying what they needed to spend the night outdoors, the crowd jammed streets in north Toronto to get to the concrete expanse at Downsview Park as big as 180 soccer fields.

As a blazing sun began its late afternoon descent, a sea of humans spread almost as far as the eye could see, some with cardboard boxes and other protection in case of predicted overnight storms.

John Paul met briefly in separate audiences with Chretien and other Canadian leaders before the flight to the park.

No rain, please

"Go back in good health and pray for no rain tonight," Marilyn Lastman, wife of Mayor Mel Lastman, told the Pope.

The rain held off through the Pope's speech.

A Mass on Sunday in the park will conclude nearly a week of activities marking World Youth Day, an event inaugurated by John Paul in 1985. More than 200,000 young Catholics from 170 nations registered this year, a decline from previous years. Organizers expect up to 1 million people at Sunday's Mass.

There was no lack of enthusiasm among the multitudes who walked in midday heat Saturday, huddling under overpasses and in the shade of trucks to avoid the sun. Some welcomed water sprayed on them by people on highway bridges, and paramedics on golf carts cruised alongside to assist those overcome by the high humidity and temperatures.

Dr. Katherine Rouleau, head of a field hospital at the vigil site, said a steady stream of people requiring a cool place to rest, some water or perhaps an intravenous drip were coming there or to the network of 16 field clinics and first-aid stations.

"The weather is one thing, but on top of that, people are getting excited. They don't think about drinking the water they need," she said. Young people are "very resilient, but when they crash, it happens very suddenly."

Excitement

Excitement was obvious in the faces of those waiting for the Pope.

"You feel the world is coming all together for the same reason," said 14-year-old Annalynn David of Sacramento, Calif. "My heart is beating madly, and I'm sure it will beat even harder when I see the Pope again."

Lisa Hieronynus, 27, of New York City said the huge numbers bolstered the faith of those gathering here as the Roman Catholic Church tries to emerge from the sex abuse scandals in the United States.

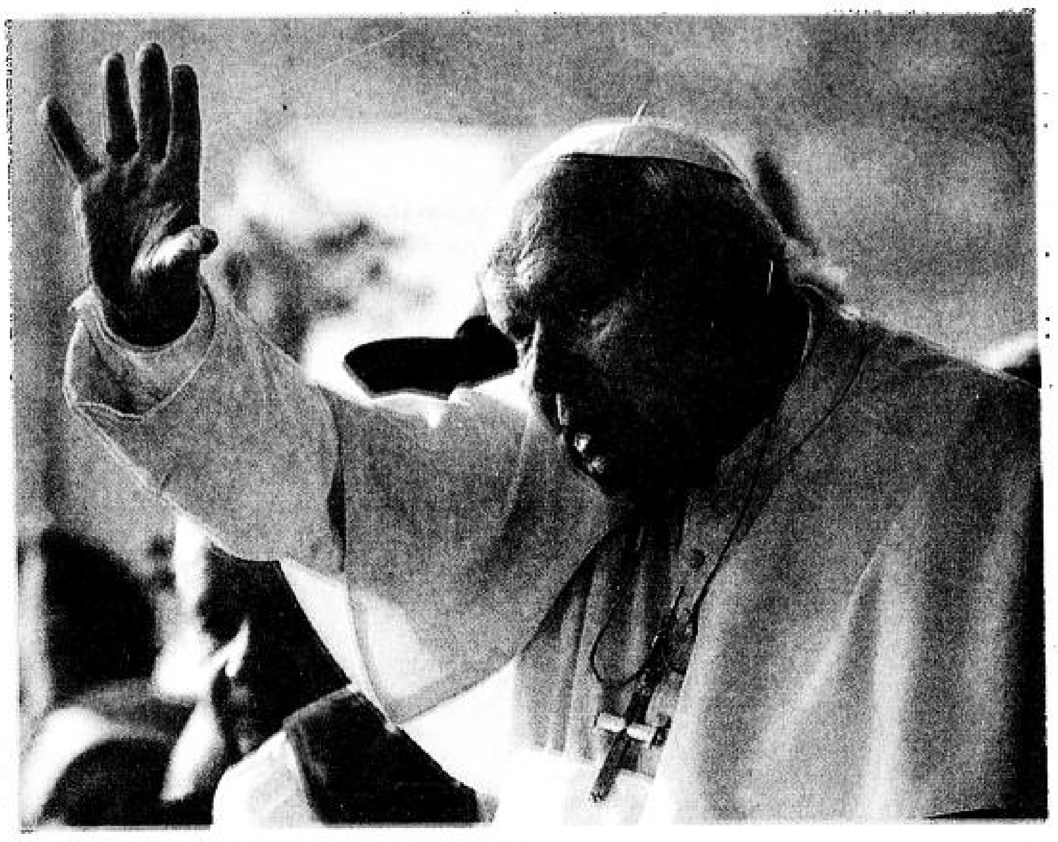
"It's not every day that you get to experience this kind of solidarity," she said. "A lot of people were shaken and a lot of people woke up. This sort of event will help the Pope in the long run."

While most of the pilgrims were preparing to sleep in the open, many brought tents and others built improvised shelters of tarpaulins, plastic barricades and cardboard boxes.

In one makeshift shantytown, Los Angeles youth minister Erick Rubalcava, 28, had a box with a mini-television and battery-powered fan.

"I'm all set," he said. "It's kind of skid row but it's kind of luxurious."

In downtown Toronto on Friday night, pilgrims by the tens of thousands watched a somber reenactment of the crucifixion as the Pope watched on television from his Strawberry Island retreat north of the city, where he has rested since arriving. *AP*



POPE John Paul II: Energized by faith of the youth. AFP

Pope finds renewed determination on latest mission to 3 countries

TORONTO—Just two months ago he sat slumped in a chair, reading only a few lines of his speech in heavily slurred words.

The condition of Pope John Paul II seemed so feeble during that stop in Bulgaria that aides publicly questioned for the first time how much travel the 82-year-old Pope could do in the future.

But in Toronto the past week for the Church's World Youth Day—the start of a three-country mission—John Paul has appeared fully alert, has spoken in a clearer voice and has insisted on walking, even if helped by a cane and with an aide gripping his arm.

At a Youth Day vigil Saturday night attended by at least half a million pilgrims, aides wheeled the Pope across the stage in a cart, the usual practice. But his voice was strong as he told the youth that reliance on technology was not enough without a spiritual dimension.

The Pope is clearly energized by the prospect of strengthening the faith of millions in his flock, especially young people here and, later in the trip, of Catholics in Latin America.

Talk that the Pope might one day step down, frequently speculated in Rome, has not been an agenda item here during the 97th overseas trip in his nearly 24-year papacy.

To make the message clear, John Paul said during a lunch with young pilgrims Friday that he planned a trip to Croatia.

His spokesperson said he also might visit the Philippines in January.

"What you see is a soul pushing a body, a soul stronger than the body," papal spokesperson Joaquin Navarro-Valls said, describing John Paul's tenacity.

John Paul has always found strength in his meetings with young people, often calling them the future of the 1-billion-member church. Facing more than 200,000 young pilgrims at the World Youth Day opening Wednesday, he held up well during the two-hour event, making only a single verbal slip.

While speaking off the cuff at the end he said the last World Youth Day was in Krakow. The event has never been held in that Polish city.

Church officials say John Paul sees his next two stops—in Guatemala and Mexico—as of equal importance for the Church, specifically its growth in Latin America, where evangelical groups are making major inroads in traditional Catholic lands.

Miracle medicine

Navarro-Valls laughed at suggestions in Canadian media that the Pope had taken a "miracle medicine" before the trip, insisting there had been no change in his treatment for symptoms of Parkinson's disease and hip and knee ailments.

The spokesperson said John Paul had benefited from the time off he took at Castel Gandolfo, a papal vacation palace in the Alban Hills south of Rome, before the trip.

"At the Vatican there are always audiences and meetings. He can't escape them," Navarro-Valls said.

Among those who have raised the possibility of a resignation should John Paul be physically unable to continue was Cardinal Oscar Rodriguez Maradiaga of Honduras, an influential prelate seen as a potential successor.

But watching John Paul in Toronto, the cardinal marveled at the Pope's determination "even when he is ill and lacks the strength he once had."

"He is showing young people how you can fulfill your mission to the very end with courage and with love," the cardinal said.

Rodriguez Maradiaga raised eyebrows at the Vatican in May when he said he thought John Paul "would have the courage" to resign if poor health left him unable to carry out his ministry.

For saying that, the cardinal recounted, he received criticism from around the world.

The Vatican always dismisses any talk of resignation, pointing to John Paul's frequent avowals to remain in office "until God permits."

The Vatican, however, has made accommodations for the frail Pontiff.

The schedule has been kept to a minimum—generally one event per day—and includes three vacation days on a secluded island. In past trips before his ailment set in, John Paul would celebrate a Mass, met with government officials, visited nuns and held a youth rally—all on the same day.

Short but important

He plans short but important stops in Guatemala and Mexico, both for canonizations.

Church officials hope his presence can help heal the still open wounds from Guatemala's 36-year-long civil war. Making an Indian a saint in Mexico is seen as an important gesture for the region's large Indian population.

John Paul will fly over the United States when he leaves Toronto on Monday. He last visited the United States more than three years ago, but the Vatican says there were never any plans to make a US stop this trip. *AP*

Comelec officials quarreling again

From page A1

the four election commissioners appointed by ousted President Joseph Estrada surfaced over the weekend, clipping the powers of the newly appointed chair of the Commission on Elections.

Resolution 02-0075 was signed by Luzviminda Tancangco, Ralph Lantion, Rufino Javier and Mehol Sadain on the same day President Macapagal-Arroyo announced the appointment of Lakas-NUCD party stalwart Benjamin Abalos Sr.

The resolution embodied the same "ground rules" that former Comelec Chair Alfredo Benipayo had refused to calendar for en banc discussion or recognize during his term because he found it disadvantageous to the Comelec chair.

"It effectively clipped the powers of the chairman," said one Comelec official who requested anonymity, who added that under the new rules the chair was practically dispensable in en banc sessions.

The rules stipulate that "the chairman or a majority of the commissioners may call for a special session on matters of urgent interest to or needing urgent attention of the commission."

This is contrary to the usual practice, in which the chair has sole authority to call for a special en banc session with or without the recommendation of the majority.

The new rules also failed to include the proposal by Commissioner Florentino Tuason Jr., an appointee of Ms Macapagal, that tasked all members of the en banc to "perform any administrative function delegated to him by the chairman."

Under the rules, the chairman has no authority to impose administrative sanctions on erring members of the commission, as Tuason had earlier suggested.

"It's the chairman's problem," said Commissioner Resurreccion Borra, another Macapagal appointee. Both Borra and Tuason were closely identified with Benipayo.

Not in effect

Reached for comment yesterday, Abalos remained affable. He said the rules were not meant to clip his powers and were in fact no longer in effect.

He said he did not recognize the ground rules, promulgated on June 10 when Javier was acting chair and Borra and Tuason were still on floating status.

"They made up those rules when I was not yet in the Comelec, but they have abandoned those rules. These rules are not in effect," Abalos, a former mayor of Mandaluyong and former chair of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority, said in a phone interview.

He said the rules were drafted only to guide the four commissioners when there was yet no Comelec chair.

Borra said filing an amendment to the ground rules was the only way to change the rules to accommodate the vast administrative powers of the Comelec chair.

But Borra said that he would leave it up to Abalos to initiate such an action.

Impeach raps

Meanwhile, the impeachment complaint against Tancangco may finally be filed before the House of Representatives this week, Bacolod Rep. Monico Puentevella said yesterday.

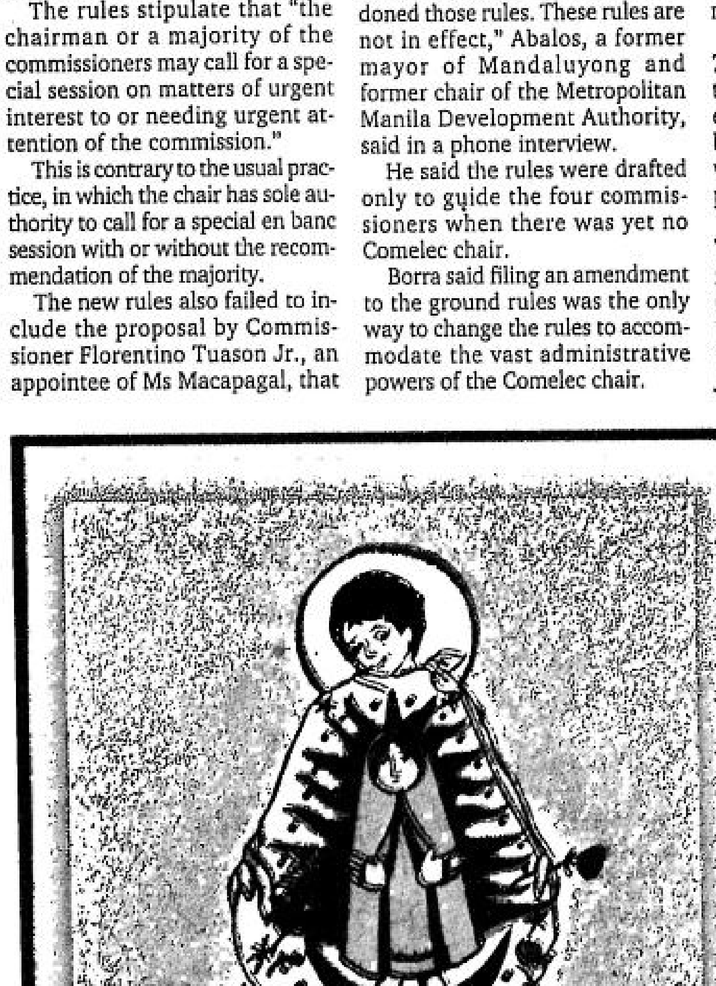
Puentevella said he was informed by a group led by the National Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel) that they would be filing their complaint against Tancangco "either Tuesday or Wednesday."

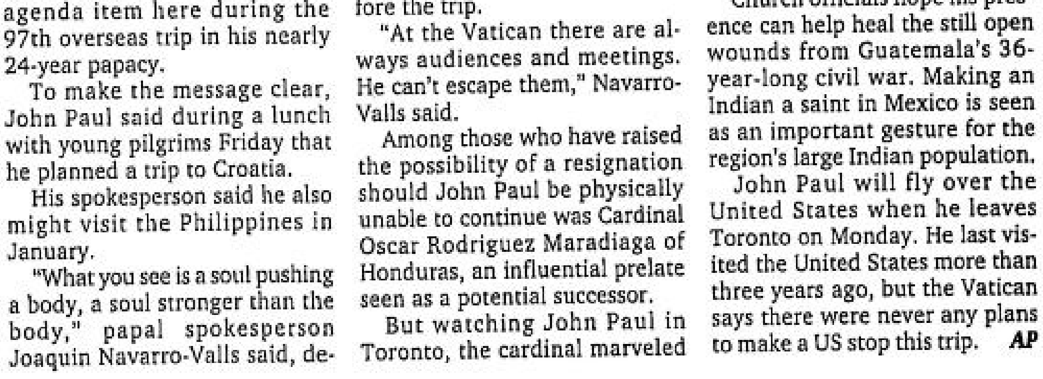
The complaint, which accused Tancangco of inefficiency, gross negligence and betrayal of public trust for her performance in the Comelec, was supposed to have been filed last month, but Congress adjourned abruptly.

Puentevella said he was preparing his endorsement of the impeachment complaint against Tancangco and that 64 congressmen have already endorsed it.

Under the impeachment rules, 77 congressmen or one-third of the members of the House have to endorse an impeachment for it to be transmitted to the Senate, which then convenes as an impeachment court.

One of the issues raised against Tancangco by Namfrel and other groups was her causing the grant of a contract to Photokina for a voter's identification and registration program. ***With a report from Christine Avendaño***





A celebration of the canonization of

Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoazin

A solemn mass shall be celebrated at the Oratory of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Magalang, Pampanga at 10:00 a.m. Wednesday, July 31, 2002.

The Private Oratory of Our Lady of Guadalupe in the monastery of the Lay Monastic Community of CARYANA, Magalang, Pampanga.

The Lay Monastic Community of Caryana has been propagating devotion to Our Lady of Guadalupe for the last 10 years and publishing the teachings of the Fathers of the Church and the Saints in Winnowing Fan and Guadalupe Series. All articles are available in their website.

www.caryana.org and www.skybusiness.com/zuns/caryana.

Also in *DWWW 774 AM* Stereo *"Kapamilya Natin"* on family life (11:00 p.m. - midnight) and *"Gising Kursillista"*, a post-cursillo program (midnight - 1:00 a.m.)

Rosales, Delasin share 21st spot in Big Apple Classic; Sorenstam, Park up

ALREADY enjoying her best season ever as a pro, Jenny Rosales edged closer to another Top 10 finish as she jumped to a share of 21st place with Dorothy Delasin and four others after Saturday's third round of the Big Apple Classic in New Rochelle, New York.

Playing in the weekend for the seventh straight leg, Rosales scattered five birdies in a round of four-under-par 67 that shoved her 20 places higher from 41st in the second round at 211.

Delasin, herself showing a lot of improvement in the past three legs including a season-best third place finish last week in the Giant Eagle LPGA Classic, matched par 71 at the Wykagyl Country Club.

Annika Sorenstam and Gloria Park were tied for the lead at 201 after Park matched the 18-hole mark of 63, just a stroke better than the Swede's 64 for the round.

Sorenstam, whose $1,849,054 this year is almost $800,000 ahead of second-place Juli Inkster on the LPGA earnings list, is on a string of seven straight top-three finishes. She has been in the top seven in all but one of her 13 starts this year. *Jong Arcano*

Hayes, Gamez ahead

SILVIS, Illinois—Robert Gamez, winless since taking two events as a rookie in 1990, shot a 5-under 66 for a share of the third-round lead with J.P. Hayes in the John Deere Classic.

Hayes, the second-round co-leader after a course-record 61, had a 67 to match Gamez at 18-under 195 on the TPC at Deere Run. Hayes birdied four of the last five holes after parring the first 13.

The start of the round was delayed nearly five hours because of a morning thunderstorm.

BASEBALL RESULTS

American League—Seattle 3, Anaheim 1; Boston 4, Baltimore 0; Tampa Bay 7, N.Y. Yankees 4; Minnesota 5, Toronto 4, 10 innings; Detroit 5, Cleveland 1; Chicago White Sox 9, Kansas City 1; Texas 10, Oakland 6, 10 innings.

National League—Atlanta 5, Philadelphia 3; Cincinnati 2, N.Y. Mets 1, 11 innings; Chicago Cubs 7, St. Louis 3; Arizona 4, San Diego 3; Los Angeles 5, San Francisco 1; Florida 7, Montreal 2; Milwaukee 6, Colorado 5, 10 innings; Houston 3, Pittsburgh 0. *AP*

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TOUR CHAMP

'Lance unopposed in the next 2 years'

MACON, France—Lance Armstrong seems untouchable.

Six years after cancer nearly killed him, the American cyclist has humbled rivals over the past three weeks on his way to an all-but-certain fourth triumph at the Tour de France.

The strength of that victory, which should come Sunday down the Champs-Elysees of Paris, now has some asking whether Armstrong could someday become the winningest Tour competitor ever.

"I don't see which racer could come and oppose him in the next two years," Belgian cyclist Eddy Merckx said. "He was not trained in the same school as me. Lance will last longer."

The U.S. Postal Service driver demonstrated his dominance of the tour on Saturday when he stretched his lead to 7 minutes, 17 seconds, his second biggest winning margin since his debut Tour victory in 1999.

A first-place finish on Sunday would put him in reach of a fifth victory next year, tying the record held by Jacques Anquetil and Bernard Hinault of France, Merckx and Spain's Miguel Indurain. A record-breaking sixth victory for Armstrong is far from unthinkable.

After strengthening his lead on Saturday in the 19th stage, an individual time trial, Sunday's stage from Melun to Paris should be little more than a victory lap for Armstrong.

"It's never easy," he said Saturday. "But in cycling, when you have a great team, it makes life easier. And we had the best team in the race."

Strong teammates aside, he was rarely tested throughout the competition.

In the flat stages of the Tour's first half, the only crinkles for the 30-year-old Armstrong were a crash in the seventh leg that caught the back of his bike, and a surprise defeat in the ninth-stage time trial. The loss gave hope to rivals that the three-time defending champion was weaker.

"I love to read those things," Armstrong said of the doubts over his form. "It works really well for my motivation."

By the time the Tour reached the mountains, the Texan was ready to respond. *AP*

Clijsters wins, arranges final duel vs Williams

PALO ALTO, California—Defending champion Kim Clijsters completed a stirring comeback against Lindsay Davenport on Saturday for a 4-6, 6-4, 6-2 semifinal victory in the Bank of the West Classic.

The fourth seeded Belgian will meet Venus Williams in Sunday's final after the top seed had earlier overwhelmed Lisa Raymond, 6-3, 6-0, in the first semifinal.

In the tournament's most dramatic contest to date, Clijsters appeared to be close to defeat against the powerful Davenport when the American broke her for a 4-2 lead in the second set.

But from that point on, the Belgian stepped up her level, running down Davenport's most ambitious forays and powering them back for winners. "I just kept going for my shots," said Clijsters, who beat Davenport in the final here last year.

"I was so focused I didn't even realize what the score was."

Playing in her first tournament in eight months because of a knee injury, the 26-year-old Davenport seized control of the match early on, pounding her first serve and hitting the lines with heavy baseline blasts.

She broke Clijsters to go 4-3 ahead when she forced the 19-year-old into a backhand error and won the set when her opponent missed a backhand down the line.

Davenport continued to play well in the second set, breaking Clijsters in the fifth game with a forehand pass down the line.

But after Davenport held at 4-2, Clijsters stepped up a gear and began to serve with variety and efficiency. *Reuters*

Agassi, Gambill advance

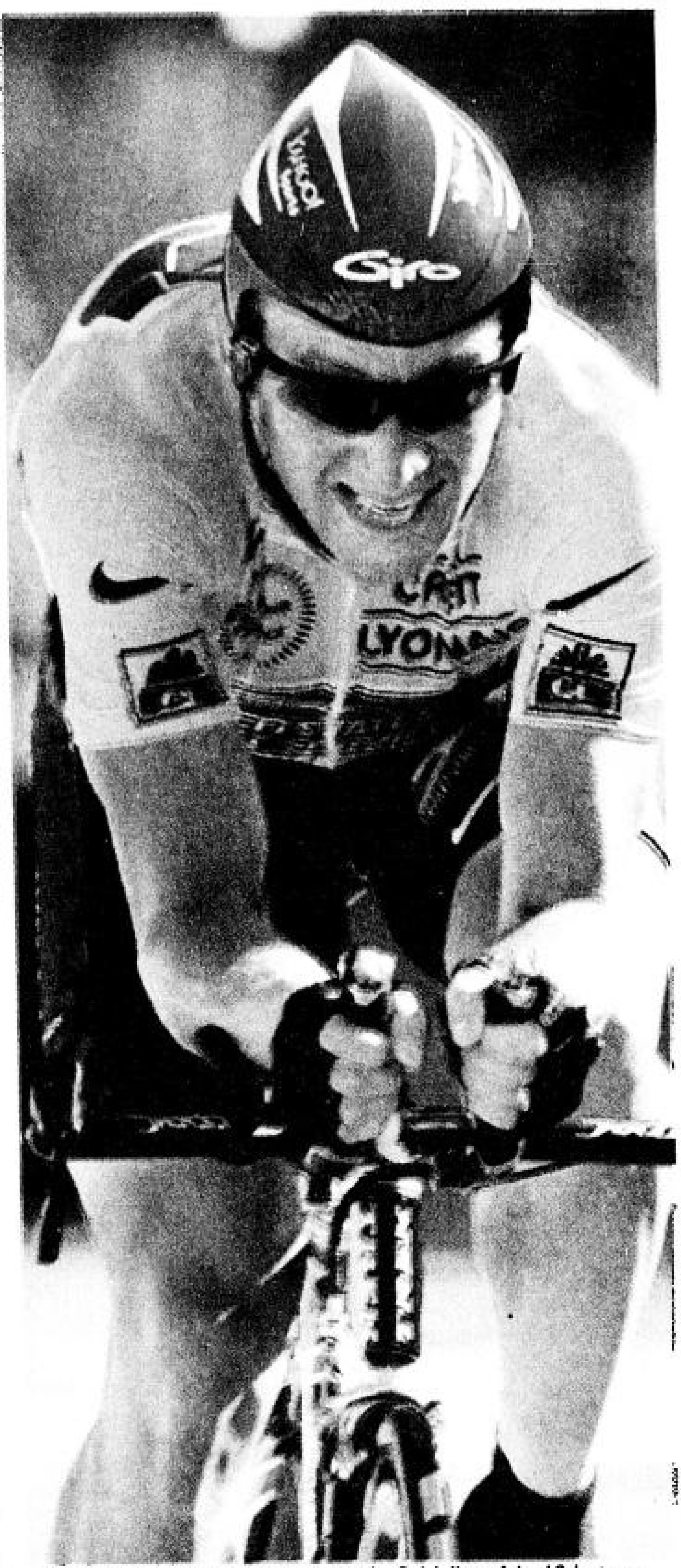
LOS ANGELES—Defending champion Andre Agassi lost just one point on his serve in the second set and beat No. 8 Max Mirnyi of Belarus, 6-4, 6-2, in the Mercedes-Benz Cup semifinals.

Agassi, the No. 2 seed, will try for his third career title in Los Angeles when he plays fellow American Jan-Michael Gambill in Sunday's final.

Agassi beat Pete Sampras last year and Tim Henman in 1998.

A funny thing happened when Jan-Michael Gambill backed up 10 feet (3 meters) behind the baseline to receive Andy Roddick's powerful serves. He won.

Gambill defeated his good friend Roddick, 7-5, 6-3, in Saturday's All-American semifinal. He advanced to the final for the second time in two years, having lost to Michael Chang in 2000. *AP*



ARMSTRONG grimaces as he nears the finish line of the 19th stage, an individual time trial, which he won convincingly to pad his lead to 7 minutes and 17 seconds. Armstrong had earlier wrapped up his fourth Tour de France title. REUTERS

F. Hills repulses Riviera

DEFENDING champion Forest Hills banked on a big escape by Jong Laput and Arnold Duay in the bestball match to salvage a 3-1 victory over two-time winner Riviera at the start of the 2002 Federation Golf League in various venues over the weekend.

Laput and newcomer Duay barely survived the challenge of Jason Gironella and Miggs Garcia as they secured the clinching point for the visiting reigning titlists in their Group III debut.

Bong Brobio and Celestino Lee took the high-low match via a lopsided 4 & 3 decision while Rafael Garcia and Anselmo Rodriguez prevailed in scramble play for Forest Hills.

With the skies clearing up after weeks of bad weather, the new season of the Fed League got off to a rousing start as Sta. Elena upset last year's losing semifinalist Alabang, 2.5-1.5, in Group I and Canlubang demolished Manila Golf Club, 3-1, in Group III.

In Group I, Mt. Malarayat and Mimosa figured in a 2-2 draw.

Wack Wack's match with Valley was postponed for a later date.

Winning for Sta. Elena were Dickie Dizon-Oliver Gan (scramble) and Jingy Tuason-Jing Montano (bestball) with the high-low pair of Iggy Clavecilla and Ed de Leon taking the clinching draw.

The high-low combination of OV Espiritu and Alex Prieto averted a shutout for Manila Golf which yielded losses to the Canlubang pairs of Bing Bunye-Manny Paz, Abe Rosal-Masanobu Nihei and Tony Olives-Jessie LaO.

Fifteen of the country's most exclusive clubs are entered in the tourney. They are divided into three groups and will contest quarterfinal slots in home-and-away matches.

SPORTS FOTOS

STREETBALL CHALLENGE

Pediatrica Inc. recently turned over Growee basketballs to adidas Philippines as part of its sponsorship of the adidas Streetball Challenge Midgets Division. Shown from left after the turnover are Emmet Penson, president Team Ventures; adidas Philippines marketing director Angelica Suiza; president and managing director John Alonte; Pediatrica Inc. vice president Ezar de Guia, Growee brand manager Tina Alviz-Cruz and product director Larry Salazar. The adidas Streetball Challenge Visayas Eliminations will be held at SM City Cebu parking area on Aug. 3 and 4.

SWIMMING TEAM

Members of the Metro Skipjacks Swimming Team are shown during the team's launching recently at Metroclub, Makati City. Shown with them are PSC Chair Eric Buhain, Councilor Jun-Jun Binay, coach Joey Andaya and Metroclub President Francisco Buencamino.

37th Founding Anniversary of Northern Samar
GOVERNOR'S CUP SPORTS TOURNAMENT 200
CATARMAN, NORTHERN SAMAR

NORTHERN SAMAR SPORTSFEST

Northern Samar Gov. Raul Daza (right) delivers the keynote speech during the opening of the Governor's Cup Sports Tournament in Catarman recently. The sportsfest coincided with the 37th founding anniversary of the province.

Ruiz retains WBA title as referee disqualifies low-hitting challenger

LAS VEGAS—An ugly heavyweight fight turned really ugly when Kirk Johnson kept hitting low. It ended when he punched WBA champion John Ruiz below the belt for at least the fourth—and final—time.

Ruiz, floored in three earlier rounds by low blows, was declared the winner in his title defense against Johnson on Saturday night when the challenger threw yet another punch below the belt in the 10th round.

Referee Joe Cortez, who had already penalized Johnson one point on two occasions, halted it by disqualifying the Canadian at 2:17 of the 10th.

A 2-1 underdog, Ruiz was winning the fight on all the judges' cards—by two scores of 85-84 and another of 86-83—despite having to take time out the three earlier times he was hit low.

The American also had the previously unbeaten Johnson in trouble late in the ninth round, catching him with a hard right that caused Johnson to clutch him. Ruiz wrestled him down, and Johnson sort of tackled Ruiz as he went to the canvas and both went sprawling.

Holmes prevails

NORFOLK, Virginia—When Larry Holmes entered the ring, "Ain't No Stopping Us Now" blared from the speakers and the crowd roared its approval. It was just like old times for Holmes.

But it didn't take long for the 52-year-old to show his age against Eric "Butterbean" Esch on Saturday night.

When Holmes danced in his corner during introductions, his flabby midsection jiggled. When he fired off his once-lethal left jab, his opponent shook it off as if his nose itched.

And when he sat on the stool in his corner between rounds, he panted like a dog in afternoon heat, his stomach jutting out, the sweat pouring off his brow.

There was no stopping the former champion.

He won a unanimous decision over Esch in a 10-round sideshow that pitted a graying grandfather against a blubbery, baldheaded brawler who had never fought more than four rounds.

If boxing had a senior tour, Holmes would be a champion again.

But it doesn't, so the proud, paunchy former heavyweight is hanging up his gloves - for now. Again. *AP*

8-angler RP team joining Hawaii tilt

TWO 4-angler Philippine teams will represent the Philippine Game Fishing Foundation (PGFF) and the Sport Fishing Federation of the Philippines (SFFP) in the "grandfather of all big game fishing tournaments"—the 43rd Hawaiian International Billfish Tournament (HIBT)—on Aug. 3-10 at Kailua-Kona, Hawaii.

SFFP secretary general Mark Rosales will captains SFFP Team Philippines which also includes Jonathan Edwin Tecson and actor-sportsman Richard "Goma" Gomez.

The PGFF team, skippered by Alberto H. Lingayo Sr. (an LRA official and two-time Angler of the Year), includes his son Alberto Jr., Jaime Ma. O. Flores and Roberto S. Rodriguez.

Lingayo fought an estimated 450-pounder leaping blue marlin for about 40 minutes in the HIBT2000 as teammates Rosales, Joson and wife Bella cheered him on before it broke line.

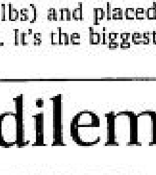
Bert Azaña, 1999 PGFF proxy end 1997 Angler of the Year, landed the biggest marlin (543 lbs) and placed PGFF 7th in HIBT'94. It's the biggest marlin catch by a Filipino since 1969 when Conrad Antonio blazed the HIBT trail with a 300-pounder on 130-lb test.

Before Azaña, the all-tackle Pinoy record was Gen. Vic Osias' 314 lbs. set in 1977. In 1978, Mrs. Pat Osias, (Asian Queen of Billfishing for her Wahine Award) and Vic Villafuerte had three marlins for a 12th-place finish.

SFFP president VicVic V. Villavicencio had his first marlin, (126.5 kg) in 1984, on his first Kona trip as PGFF president.

Adducul's dilemma

CLEAN LIVING



Manolo R. Iñigo

MY heart bleeds for Romel Adducul, the 6-foot-6 prized center of the cash-strapped Metropolitan Basketball Association. One of the highest paid athletes in Philippine sports history with a reported salary of P500,000 a month, Adducul now finds himself jobless (as with the other MBA players) following the league's decision to cancel the remaining games of its ongoing National Conference.

"It's very unfortunate," said MBA director for business operations Ramon Tuason. "But technically, we're not closing shop. We're just reformatting for next year."

The MBA was launched in 1998 in grand style with all the advantages: a veteran commissioner in Ramon Fernandez, 12 teams representing cities and provinces across the country and the backing of giant television network ABS-CBN. But in a bizarre twist of fortune, the promise of a rosy future was later on broken into pieces as a result of several controversies, including a reported money scandal, the resignation of some original members and key officials and the withdrawal of financial support by ABS-CBN.

On the MBA's cash problems, Adducul confirmed reports that he has not been receiving his monthly salary from his team since last April. He also expressed sadness over the fate of the MBA and its players, including himself, saying, "*Maraming mawawalan ng trabaho.*"

Early this year, Adducul almost joined the Philippine Basketball Association, but this did not materialize because of his commitment to the MBA where he was under contract with the LBC-Batangas Blades. Then a shoo-in to become the PBA's No. 1 draft, Adducul was deprived of the chance to play in the more established PBA when MBA chair and Batangas team owner Santi Araneta did not release him at the last minute of the PBA drafting deadline.

JUN B REPLACEMENT

Barrios faces challenge from Yanga, Gamboa

By June Navarro

PBA Commissioner Jun Bernardino will formally announce his retirement plans today and recommend executive director Sonny Barrios as his successor.

Barrios, whom Bernardino would recommend to the PBA Board of Governors as his replacement, is expected to face a challenge from either former PBA board chairman and Shell representative Rey Gamboa and Selecta-RP team manager Elmer Yanga, a source yesterday told the INQUIRER.

The names of Yanga, who now acts as consultant of the Concepcion-owned Republic Flour Mills, and Gamboa cropped up in the short list being considered as worthy replacements to the good commissioner.

"I believe Rey (Gamboa) will be more strict on implementing the rules. He follows the league's policies to the letter," said the source who requested anonymity.

He also has kind words for Yanga but stressed that the former RFM board representative to the league is "just too friendly" to be a commissioner.

But perhaps no amount of persuasion would convince Bernardino to recommend somebody other than Barrios.

BERNARDINO

"Sonny fits the position, not to mention that he's well-versed with the operations of the league. But just the same it's the board's call," said Bernardino, who holds the post since September 1982.

Barrios ably steered the league through turbulent times last year when Bernardino suffered a mild stroke that had the 55-year-old commissioner fully recovering from the ailment for four months.

"He's (Barrios) not vocal but he has the experience and capability to run the league. After all, he's been with the PBA for years," a member of the PBA board of governors said.

Bernardino will formally announce his retirement plans when the PBA board convenes at the Edsa-Shangri La Plaza hotel today.

Upon the advice of his doctors and consultations with his family, Bernardino has decided to bid the league adieu but promised to come back and involve himself in sports anyway he can.

Sports forum guest

PBA commissioner Jun Bernardino leads the panel of guests appearing in tomorrow's session of the PSA Forum at the Holiday Inn hotel. Session starts at 10:30 a.m.

Airman rules marathon elims

MELCHOR Mirasol of Philippine Air Force ran his first full marathon and topped the Metro Manila leg of the 26th National Milo Marathon which started and finished at the Quirino Grandstand yesterday.

The 20-year-old Mirasol, who breasted the tape in two hours, 37 minutes and 49 seconds, outsprinted Crisanto Carillo in the final kilometers of the lung-busting 42K race.

Carillo finished second after checking in two hours, 42 minutes and 11 seconds.

In the distaff side, Flordeliza Cachero handily won over her closest pursuers after clocking three hours, seven minutes and 56 seconds.

Geraldine Sealza (3:16:30) and Mila Paje (3:27:19) finished second and third in a pool of 17 female runners.

All finishers in the 42Krace are qualified in the grand finals on Dec. 8. *June Navarro*

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SMB routs FedEx, advances

By June Navarro

GAME TOMORROW (Cuneta Astrodome)
7 p.m.—Purefoods vs Selecta-RP

SAN Miguel Beer gave Vergel Meneses a harsh reception as it routed Federal Express, 85-73, and booked a quarterfinals ticket last night in the PBA Samsung Commissioner's Cup at the Araneta Coliseum.

The Beermen got off to a strong start, quashed several uprisings by the Express and survived the absence of Art Long in the final period on the way to their third straight win, their fifth in eight games overall.

The Beermen thus joined Batang Red Bull, Sta. Lucia Realty and Coca-Cola in the next round.

Slapped with a technical foul for arguing a call in the third quarter, Long was never fielded again, prompting Shea Seals, Dorian Pena and Nic Belasco to carry the fight for the Beermen.

Batang Red Bull earned a twice-to-beat advantage going into the next phase after drubbing Talk N Text, 92-80, in the second game.

The Thunder maintained the lead at 7-1 while the Phone Pals dropped to 4-4.

Scores:

SAN MIGUEL 85—Seals 26, Belasco 16, Pena 14, Mente 9, Gamboa 7, Long 6, Victoria 3, Lago 2, Gahol 2, Carmona 0, Castro 0, Padilla 0.

FEDEX 73—Walker 27, Ritualo 14, Pierre-Louis 13, Codiñera 6, Billones 5, De Ocampo 4, Bernardo 2, Arboleda 2, Pumaren 0, Meneses 0.

Quarters: 25-16, 49-31, 72-52, 85-73.

Surprising Celtics move

NBA NOTES

Henry Liao

ONE significant trade in the NBA offseason so far saw the Boston Celtics acquiring high-priced but underachieving forward-center Vin Baker and playmaker Shammond Williams from the Seattle SuperSonics for guard Kenny Anderson and Joseph Forte and injured center Vitaly Potapenko.

It's intriguing why the Celtics would want a third "maximum" contract player—Baker inked a seven-year, $86.6-million deal with the Sonics in 1999—on their roster after high-scoring duo Antoine Walker and Paul Pierce, knowing that their latest acquisition is hampered by chronic weight problems and probably has already seen his best days as the numbers of the four-time All-Star (1995-98, the first three with Milwaukee and the most recent with Seattle) have deteriorated steadily since the 1999 lockout-shortened season.

The 6-11 Baker, who turns 31 in November, has four years and more than $50 million left on his current contract and is scheduled to bankroll $12.4 million next campaign. It would seem that the Celtics' salary-cap woes multiplied in taking on Baker's enormous contract.

That's not true, however. On the contrary, Boston even cleared $1 million in cap space in consummating the trade. While they are inheriting the 2002-03 salaries of Baker and Williams ($2.0 million) that total $14.4 million, the Celts are unloading the paychecks of Anderson ($9.2 million), Potapenko ($5.2 million) and sophomore-to-be Forte ($1.0 million) worth a combined $15.4 million.

Concert for athletes gains more backers

VIVA Vintage, the National Collegiate Athletic Association and the Philippine Basketball League joined the growing list of supporters to the Alay Sa Gintong Medalya, a fund-raising concert for national athletes.

Meanwhile, the Philippine Taekwondo Association through its vice president Sung Chun Hong became the first among the national sports association to pour in relentless backing to the event starting at 8 p.m. on Aug. 9 at the PhilSports Arena (formerly Ultra) in Pasig City.

Viva Vintage boss Vic del Rosario has agreed to plug the Alay Sa Gintong Medalya concert during games of the Philippine Basketball Association, a support that is expected to boost information regarding the noble endeavor organized by the Philippine Sports Commission through its chairman, Eric Buhain.

Viva Vintage's support followed that of the PBA, which, according to commissioner Jun Bernardino, is also committing its backing to the event.

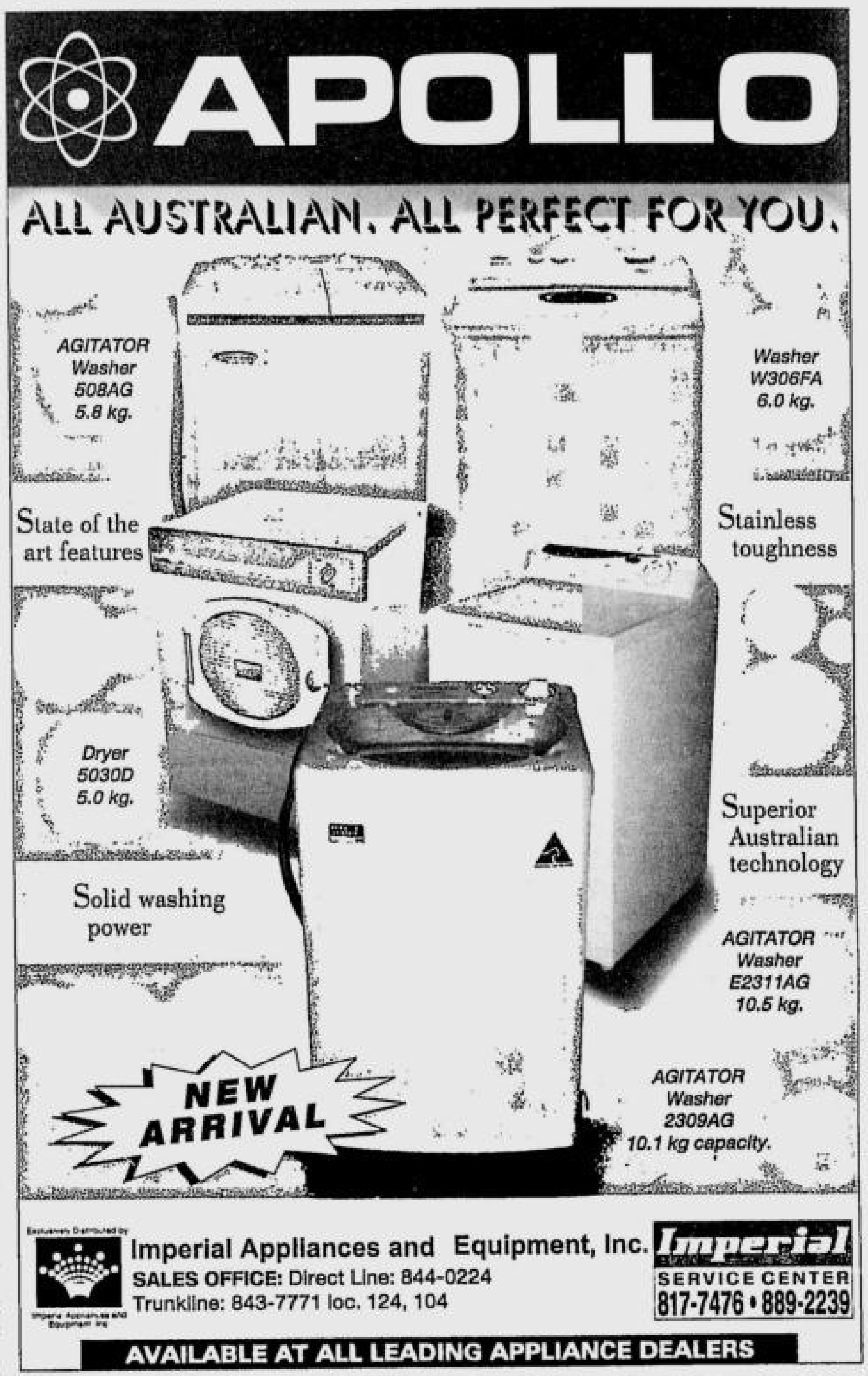
The NCAA, the oldest league in the country which is holding its 78th season this year, has also agreed to support the concert, which features the country's top performers led by Gary Valenciano and Vina Morales.

The Philippine Amusements and Gaming Corp. headed by Ephraim Genuino, Samsung Electronics Phils., Centrum Vitamins, Air Philippines, WG&A SuperFerry, Philtranco, Brunswick-Bong Coo Sports, Peak Sports and Bank of Commerce are the main sponsors of the event.

Tickets—P800, P500, P350 and P100—are now on sale at all Shoemart Ticketnet outlets.

TIGHT CURVE

Caltex Delo skipper Noel Bartolome negotiates a tight curve that drew cheers from the crowd during the recent Caltex Delo 4x4 Extreme Challenge in Magima, Bukidnon. Bartolome is one of the favorites in the third leg of the event at the Cebu Civic Trade Center in Ayala 2, Cebu City.



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FC Botellion swamps Jugadores, captures Amigos Futbol Cup

FC Botellion tamed the Jugadores Football Club in two straight games (3-0, 2-0) in the 1st Amigos Futbol Cup at the Nomads field in Merville Park, Parañaque.

Superb finishing by striker Freddy Gonzalez and the strong support in the midfield from Christian and Selu Lozano keyed the well-deserved win for Botellion.

Goalkeeper Christian was likewise in inspired form, garnering cheers from his teammates for his lunging dives and punch-away saves.

With the victory, FC Botellion has officially become the first team to lift the Amigos Cup.

SPORTS ON TV

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

GOLF: PGA John Deere Classic, Third Round at 7 a.m. (r), Final Round at 2 p.m. (r – 10 p.m.) on Star Sports

LPGA Jamie Farr Kroger Classic, Third Round at 8:30 p.m. (r) on ESPN

MOTOR SPORTS: Race Day - German Grand Prix at 9 a.m. (r) on Star Sports

2002 F1 World Championship - Mobil 1 German Grand Prix at 9:45 a.m. (r) on Star Sports

Chequered Flag – F1 Mobil 1 German Grand Prix at 12 noon (r) on Star Sports

TENNIS: ATP Mercedes-Benz Cup, Finals at 8:30 p.m. on Star Sports

BASKETBALL: World Pro Basketball Challenge, Championship Game at 5 p.m. (r) on ESPN

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SPORTS

Editor **Al S. Mendoza** ◎ Assistant Editor **Edwin M. Villanueva**

Negros Occidental netters sparkle

LA CARLOTA—Martina Guba blanked Sante Araujo, 6-0, 6-0, and Gerard Bergavera demolished Jimbo Umaphay 6-1, 6-1 as the pride and joy of Negros Occidental stamped their class in separate divisions Saturday in the 2002 Milo Junior Tennis Cup and Regional Workshop at the La Carlota Tennis Club here. The netfest is organized by the Children's Tennis Workshop and supported by Adidas and Sports Kids.

UP surprises Ateneo

Adamson shames FEU in day of upsets

By Dennis U. Eroa

UNIVERSITY of the Philippines stunned Ateneo, 53-49, while lowly Adamson shamed Far Eastern University, 76-59, in a day of reversals in the UAAP basketball tournament yesterday at the Makati Coliseum.

Rookie pointguard Jonjon Tabique towered with an amazing second half-performance while a killer zone clippped the wings of the Blue Eagles as the Fighting Maroons won the "Battle of Katipunan."

"I kept on believing the boys. We're talking about hearts here," said UP coach Allan Gregorio, whose wards were beaten by wide margins in their last two games. Gregorio remembered that he challenged his players to keep the word "Fighting" in their monicker.

Ateneo's first loss after three wins put defending champion La Salle alone on top with four straight victories.

Adamson and UP joined University of Santo Tomas and University of the East in third place with 2-2 cards.

STANDINGS	W	L
La Salle	4	0
Ateneo	3	1
UST	2	2
UE	2	2
Adamson	2	2
UP	2	2
FEU	1	3
NU	0	4

A swarming defense held Enrico Villanueva scoreless in the fourth period and Ateneo's problem worsened when swingmen Larry Fonacier, Jec Chia, Wesley Gonzales and Rich Alvarez failed to deliver.

Ateneo was ahead, 40-29, when Abby Nunag spearheaded a comeback. The 5-foot-6 Tabique scored 10, including two charities which pegged the final score, 8.8 ticks left. Vito Arnaiz and Mike Bravo also scored big baskets in the dying seconds for the Maroons.

Using their half-court set to perfection, the high-flying Falcons clawed their way to an imposing 64-46 lead, 3:46 remaining, to hand coach Luigi Trillo his second victory since taking charge two years ago.

Despite their advantage in size, the Tamaraws got clobbered in the boards, 43-29, and failed to match the boundless energy displayed by the Falcons.

The loss brought back memories of FEU's 89-81 setback to Adamson which happened on Aug. 19, 1999 at the Loyola Gym. Adamson, then, suffered a two-year losing slump which was broken only when Trillo steered the Falcons to an 82-80 win over the National University Bulldogs last July 18.

Scores:

First game:

ADAMSON 76—Mangulabnan 13, Ferrer 12, Abadia 10, Tagupa 9, Mamaclay 9, Tiongco 9, Alonzo 5, Hate 4, Tajonera 3, Gandarosa 2, Catabay 0.

FEU 59—Jones 15, Isip 11, Miranda 7, Sinco 7, Zablan 7, Santos 6, Yabut 4, Razon 2, Garcia 0, Rizada 0, Cutler 0.

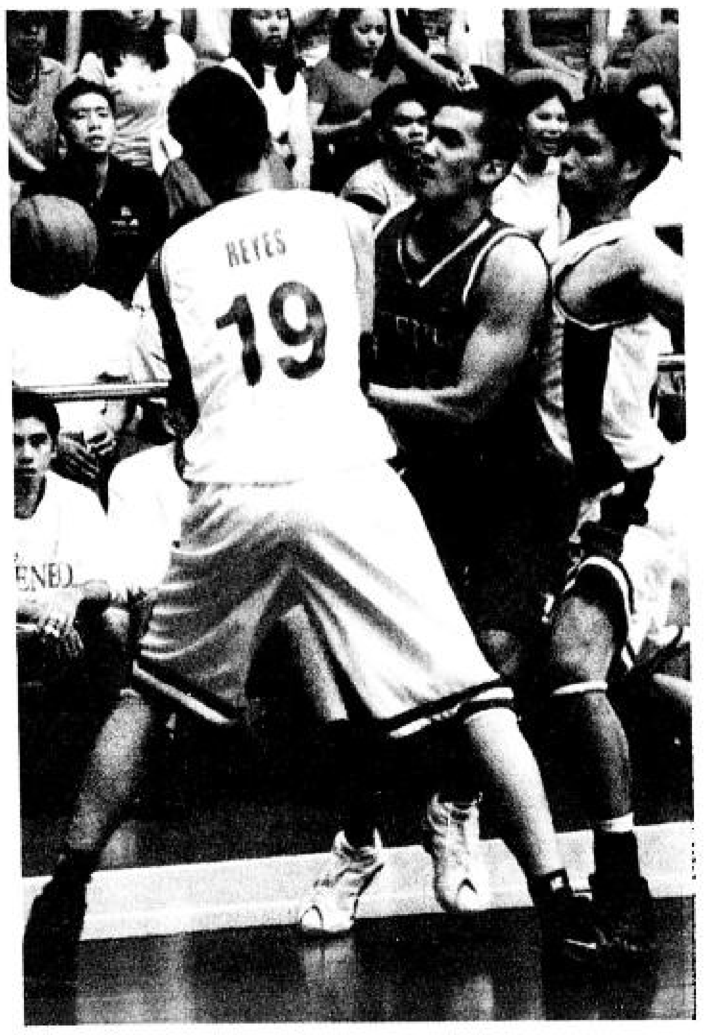
Quarters: 10-18, 28-32, 48-41, 76-59

Second game:

UP 53—Nuñag 10, Tabique 10, Bravo 10, Santos 8, Reyes 6, Almeda 4, Arnaiz 3, Cervantes 2, Ferrer 0, Ibañes 0.

ATENEO 49—Villanueva 14, Tenorio 9, Chia 7, Alvarez 6, Gonzales 6, Quimpo 3, Fonacier 2, Cruz 2, Del Rosario 0, Tadeo 0, Intal 0, Benitez 0.

Quarters: 10-15, 24-27, 39-41, 53-49.



A DOUBLE-TEAMING defense put up by Jay-R Reyes (left) and Abby Santos of the University of the Philippines forces Ateneo's Rich Alvarez to lose the ball during their UAAP game yesterday. UP won, 53-49.

JOAN BONDOC

PCU seeks 4th victory

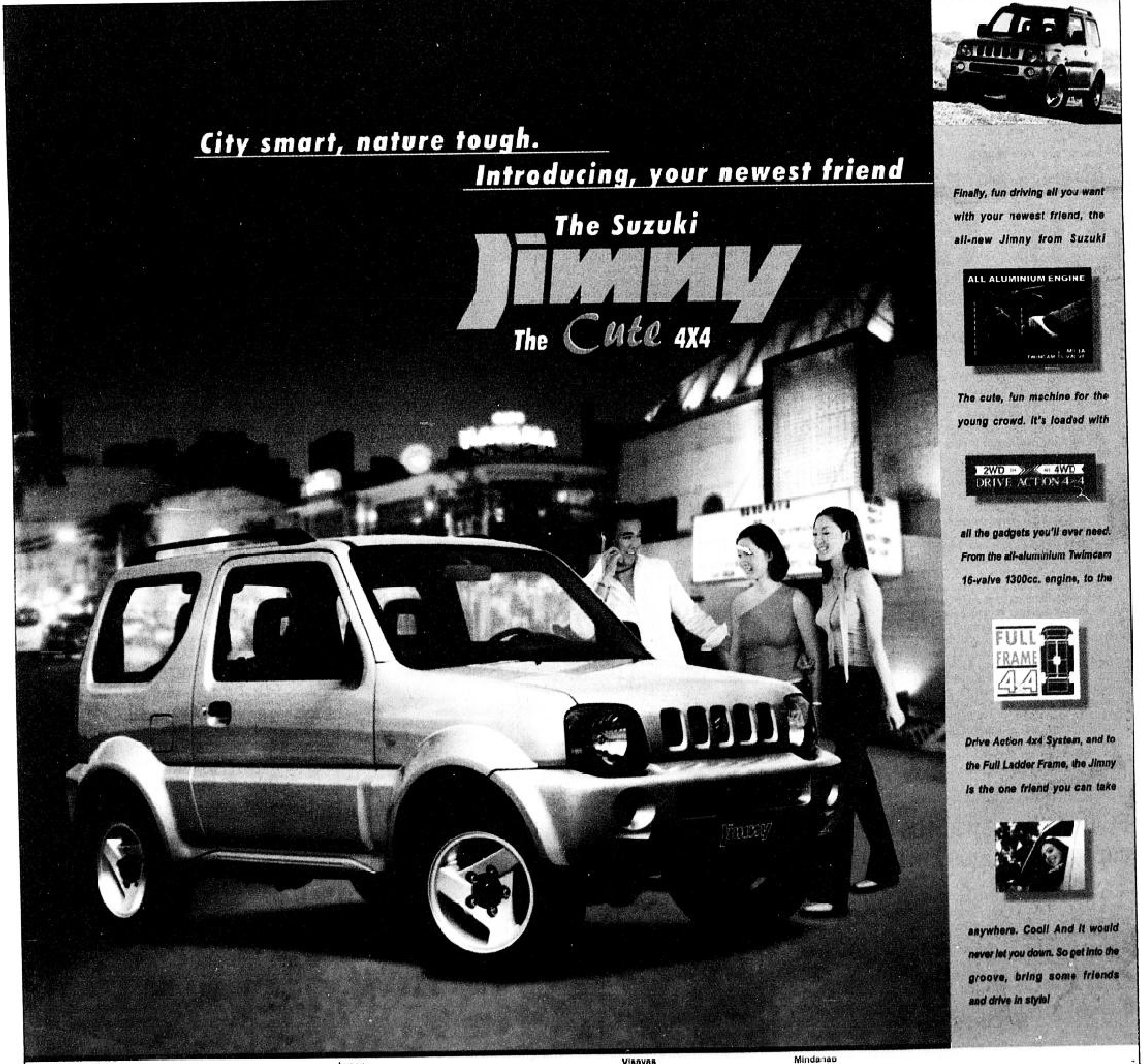
GAMES TODAY
(Rizal Memorial Coliseum)
11:30 p.m.—SSC vs JRU (jrs/srs)
4 p.m.—PCU vs SBC (jrs/srs)

PHILIPPINE Christian University is on a hot streak.

Whipping boys no more, the Dolphins shoot for a fourth straight victory when they cross paths with cellar-dweller San Beda College today in the NCAA basketball tournament at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

The Dolphins had earlier beaten Letran College, Jose Rizal University and defending champion San Sebastian College in convincing fashions.

Lot Soriano, Joseph Roque, Alwin Ilagan, Bernzon Franco and Nelson Gatdula were responsible for the Dolphins' second-running 3-1 record, their best start since joining the league in 1996. *J. Navarro*



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METRO

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

'Wasteful'

FERNANDO

By Christian V. Esguerra

METRO MANILA Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando is an efficient "garbage collector" but his waste disposal scheme for the metropolis is "wasteful," Greenpeace Philippines said yesterday.

"I think we have to remind him that there is such a law as the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act which calls for a comprehensive solution to the garbage problem," Von Hernandez, Greenpeace cam-

WASTEFUL/ p. A26

WAZZZZUP ?
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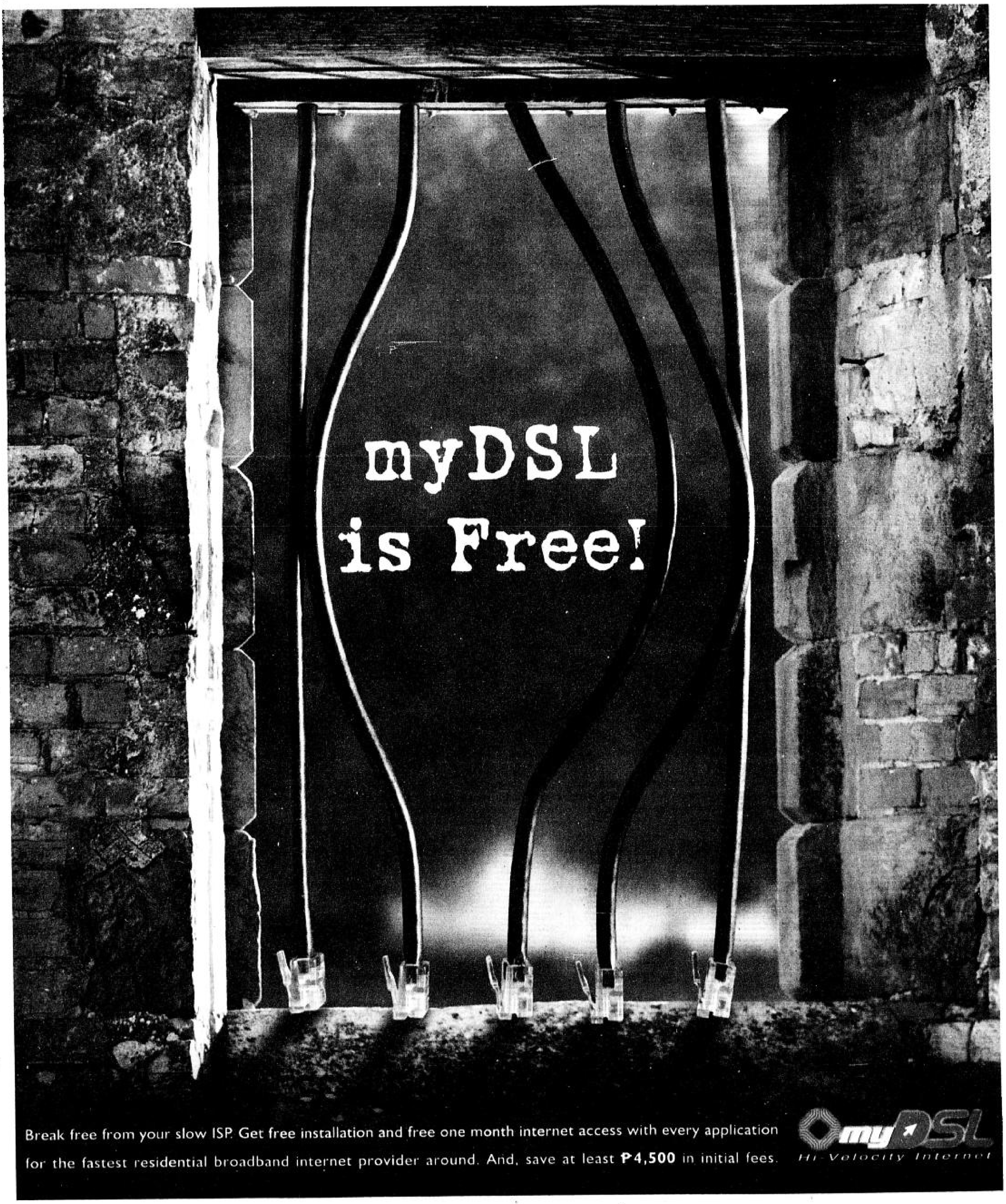

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‘Marikina beautification useless if crime is unchecked’

By Nelson F. Flores

ACTOR Sonny Parsons urged Marikina City Mayor Marides Fernando to do something about the peace and order situation in the city instead of just focusing her efforts on its beautification.

Parsons (real name, Jose Nabiola) said it is the duty of the government to protect its citizens from from criminals and other bad elements.

He said the recent assaults on him and his family should be wake up calls for Fernando and the city police.

"All the beautification efforts of the mayor would go to waste if criminality remains unchecked," said Parsons, a former Marikina City councilor and former member of the novelty singing group Hagibis.

On July 18, six robbers barged into the Parsons residence in Concepcion and took P133,000 cash and personal belongings. But Parsons was able to go after the fleeing robbers and engaged them in a gun battle. He killed two of them and seriously wounded another.

A week later, unidentified men tried to break into his house again but an iron grill door stopped them.

Parsons said he has heard of reports of many unsolved crimes against person and property in the city.

Parsons' defense of his family earned him praise from many quarters, including the Senate.

Dante Jimenez, chair of the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruptionr, said no amount of propaganda could hide the criminal cases in Marikina City.

Jimenez said the Marikina City police and local government should exert all efforts to get to the bottom of the attacks on Parsons. He said there could be a deeper motive behind the incidents.

He pointed out that after the killing of the two robbers, unidentified men reportedly tried to abduct one of Parsons' maids at the Concepcion market in broad daylight, as if taunting the lawmen.

"No amount of *pogi* points would be able to cover up the crime problem, especially drug trafficking, not only in Marikina but in the entire country," Jimenez stressed.

Parsons vowed to run after the remaining members of the gang, saying that if the police couldn't do it, he would.

He said he "won't be a sitting duck in my own home."

Parsons said he would ask other people to help him in his crusade.

PAF man caught with ‘gold bars’

By Christian V. Esguerra

WHAT was an Air Force captain doing with four gold bars?

Makati policemen are puzzled why John Roy Vincent Tenorio, 35, who identified himself as an air force officer, had four supposed gold bars when he was arrested for using a siren on Friday night.

Tenorio was driving a Toyota sedan (UUR-852) when members of the Makati mobile patrol unit noticed he was using a siren, which is prohibited, and flagged him down near the corner of Makati and Gil Puyat avenues at 11:25 p.m.

Police said Tenorio identified himself as a PAF captain and showed two identification cards that had pictures of him in air force uniform.

Tenorio yielded four supposed gold bars, a .45-caliber pistol with three magazines and 24 pieces of live ammunition, and P62,520 cash.

He was brought to the Makati Police Headquarters for further investigation.

‘Wasteful’

From p. A25

paign director for Southeast Asia, said.

Immediately after his appointment to the MMDA, Fernando, former mayor of Marikina City, announced that he was planning to tap the Philippine National Railways to transport Metro Manila's garbage to southern Luzon by railway.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources was looking for land on which to dump Metro Manila's garbage, Fernando had also said.

Hernandez yesterday said Fernando's new scheme was "wasteful" since it would concentrate only on garbage disposal.

"When he was mayor of Marikina, the city was clean only because he was an efficient garbage collector," the Greenpeace leader told the INQUIRER.

"Unfortunately, efficient garbage collection cannot single-handedly solve the problem in Metro Manila," Hernandez added.

Greenpeace and 99 other environmental organizations composing the Eco-Waste Coalition said they would seek an audience with Fernando to urge him to fully implement the law on solid waste management, according to Hernandez.

He pointed out that the law prescribes the creation of waste management councils all over Metro Manila to oversee the implementation of the government's segregation, recycling, and composting program.

When he was still MMDA chair, Benjamin Abalos Sr.— now Commission on Elections chair— put up a number of material recovery facilities (MRFs) in the metropolis to handle the recycling and composting of garbage, the environmentalist said.

"But the MRFs turned into dumpsites because garbage was not segregated when it was brought there," Hernandez said.

The first step toward a comprehensive solution to the garbage crisis is to compel people to segregate garbage right in their homes, Hernandez said.

"We hope (Fernando) would apply his executive expertise in making the people segregate, recycle, and compost garbage," he said. "The law on waste management is not perfect but it laid down the formula for an efficient solution."

Control over police open to abuse, lawmakers warn

By Tina Santos

METRO Manila mayors may be applauding President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's stand on the return to them of control over the police, but their congressmen are not sharing their enthusiasm.

The four lawmakers from the Camanava (Caloocan, Malabon, Navotas, Valenzuela) area said returning police control to the mayors could lead to abuses by the local executives.

House assistant majority leader and Caloocan City District I Rep. Enrico "Recom" Echiverri on Saturday revealed that what he called the "NCR Bloc," composed of about 24 congressmen, has expressed concern over the issue.

However, Echiverri defended the President, saying she was on the right track when she referred the issue to Malacanang legal experts "for review and restudy."

"Somebody is just trying to test the Constitution," Echiverri said. "He could be doing this if only to give due recognition to the highest law of the land. We are doing this so that future leaders may be guided properly."

ERICE

Caloocan City District II Rep. Edgar Erice backed Echiverri's statement, saying that if she had not ordered a review, the President could be accused of violating the Constitution.

"Returning the authority over the police to the mayors means we are again `localizing' the police, which should not be the case because under the Philippine National Police Law, the police should be nationalized," Erice said.

The neophyte lawmaker said the President might have failed to consult the right people, like lawmakers.

"Any change in the law should pass Congress," he said.

Malabon-Navotas Rep. Ricky Sandoval also said Malacanang should reconsider the move.

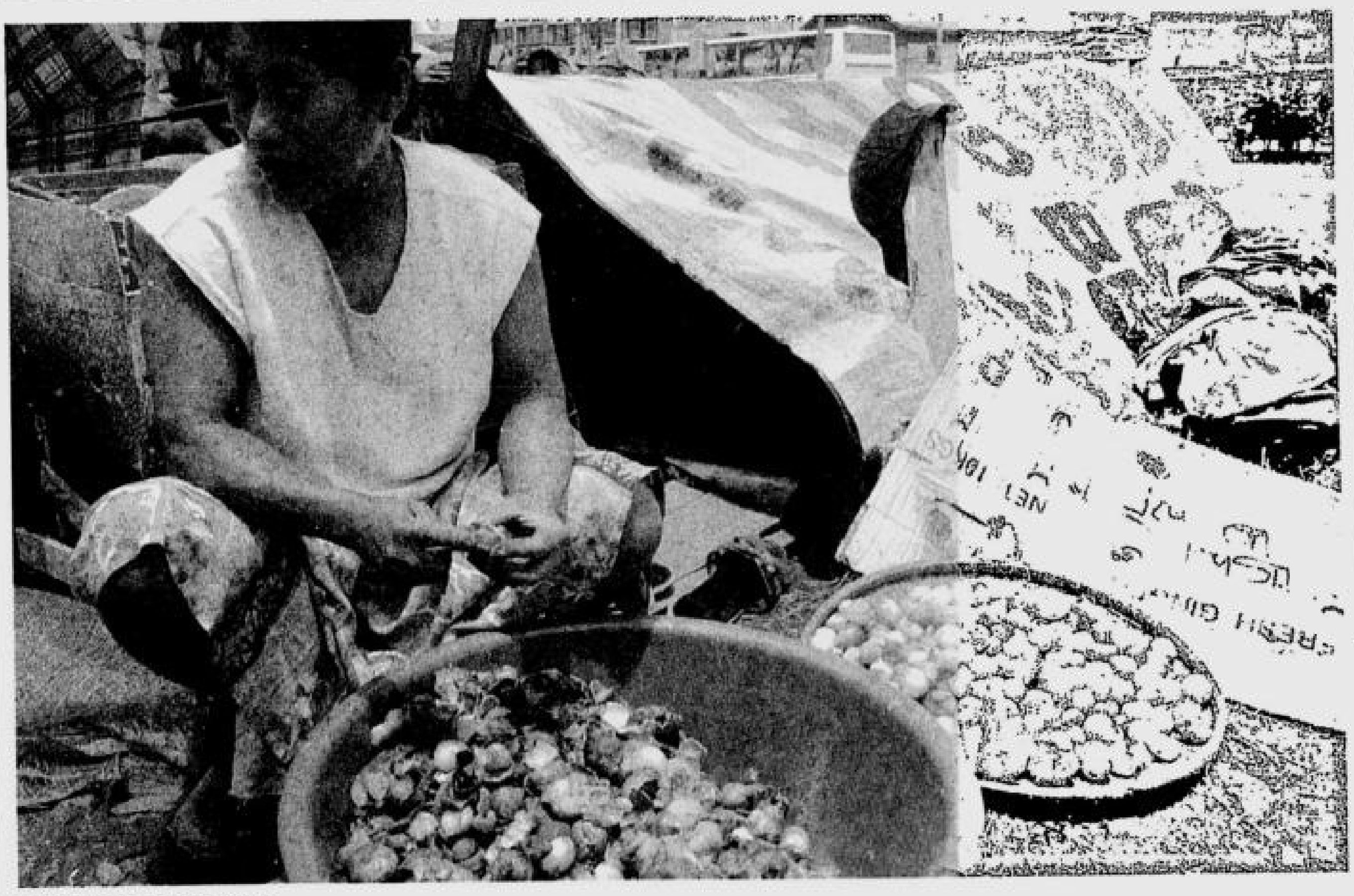
"There is great apprehension that the police might be transformed into private armies," Sandoval said. "If that would happen, we can't imagine what would happen."

Valenzuela City District II Rep. Magtanggol "Magi" Gunigundo strongly opposed the measure, saying the possibility of police officers becoming private armies is not remote.

"The NCR Bloc is not in favor (of returning police control to the mayors) because it is against the Constitution," Gunigundo said, "as well as because of the possible abuse of authority by the mayors, like what had happened in the past."

The Camanava congressmen said their unanimous stand was recently formalized when they met and discussed the issue.

Senators Aquilino Pimentel Jr. and Robert Barbers earlier said Malacanang only needed to certify a pending measure as urgent to legalize the presidential initiative.



LIVING ON REJECTS
Virginia Ismi, 33, says she and her husband make a living—barely—by collecting onions, tomatoes and other vegetables thrown away by vendors at the Cloverleaf market in Quezon City, cleaning them and then selling them. She says they have been living in a makeshift hut at the Balintawak cloverleaf after fire destroyed their house. Their four children live with relatives, she says. VAL HANDUMON

METROBRIEFS

2nd time unlucky

JOVANNI Endaya, 20, of Cainta, Rizal, almost got caught when he single-handedly robbed the house of businessman John Paul Reyes in Greenmeadows I after midnight yesterday. When he went to rob the house of businessman Darwin Salipsip in the same subdivision, his luck ran out. Police caught him and detained him at the Central Police District headquarters in Camp Karingal. Police said Endaya had sneaked into the house of Reyes, 33, at about 1 a.m. yesterday through the bathroom window and took P615,000 in cash and jewelry from the master bedroom. But when Endaya was escaping, he accidentally knocked down an object that created noise, which alerted Reyes. Reyes failed to catch Endaya, but apparently reported the theft to subdivision guards. Endaya was caught when he went to Salipsip's house and robbed the owner of P440,000.

Agnes E. Donato

Septic tank death

YEAR-OLD Winnie Maglinte of Miramonte Park West Subdivision in Makatipo, Caloocan City, drowned when she fell into an unfinished septic tank in their backyard last July 19. Police said the girl's mother, Nilda, had left her in the care of her three siblings. Last Friday, when she reported her child's death to police, she said Winnie somehow managed to reach the backyard and fell into a hole, which was meant for a septic tank, with three feet of floodwater. Neighbor Jerome Caneza said he helped Winnie's siblings bring the unconscious child to the Millennium Maternity Center and then to the San Lazaro Hospital, which both denied turned them away. The child died the next day at the Far Eastern University Hospital in Fairview, Quezon City.

Tina Santos

Recruiter shot

UNIDENTIFIED men shot dead alleged illegal recruiter Nazir Mijabi, of South Cotobato, in Taguig early yesterday morning, police said. Mijabi's body was found floating in a creek along M.L. Quezon Street in Lower Bicutan, said Chief Insp. Emma Delelis, chief of the Southern Police District's Scene of the Crime Operatives. He said Mijabi had at least six gunshot wounds. Police said Mijabi could have been killed for his allegedly illegal recruitment of his neighbors in Tocananas, South Cotobato for jobs in Kuwait. Police said Mijabi usually housed his clients in a slum near Road 9 in Taguig instead of taking them abroad as he had promised.

Christian V. Esguerra

MBA: Closing a chapter in Philippine basketball

BARE EYE

Recab Trinidad

IT burst into the big-time scene armed with grandiose promises.

Fidel V. Ramos, then still very much the chief of state, himself boldly predicted the venture would be a grand success.

It proved to be another grand miscalculation by the beleaguered former President.

Well, the Metropolitan Basketball Association (MBA), which had chug-chugged through the national basketball scene with a vow to outshine and outsell the PBA, has just folded up.

But, hey, even before it could officially close shop, the league was already screaming, for everybody to hear, that it would be back with a bang.

The MBA was already saying hello and hi, even before it could finish saying farewell.

***

Look, the lowly *galungong*, despite the President's smirking claims, continues to sell well over P60 a kilo.

In three successive trips to the village *talipapa*, the cheapest *galungong*, not too fresh anyway, we could get for P70 a kilo.

The peso has also sunk to a new six-month low.

But, if you are to believe that prices of commodities are still within the reach of the poor man, and that the peso is strong and stable, you also have to buy the MBA marketplace pitch that it will be back next year.

***

But, come to think of it, who needs the MBA?

Definitely not the basketball fan who, after being fed with an over-abundance of leagues, must've been praying for some sort of a purge, the better to save him from all the nonsense, these past many years.

Definitely not sports leader Boy Lu Yong of Marikina, who swore during the birthday bash of MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando last Thursday that too much basketball has clearly hampered the development of sports in the country.

Definitely not big commercial advertisers, much less ABS-CBN, which have discovered the MBA to be a very poor sales vehicle.

Definitely not certain enterprising reporters who, in a bid to help the MBA, ended up defending it to the point of sounding like the very agents of the league.

***

In fairness to MBA managers, the tournament tried to live up to its promises and commitments.

It was most generous in lending top players for international commitments, like the Southeast Asian Games and the Jones Cup.

It had roused the countryside with its regular out-of-town games which, unfortunately, ate up a hefty share of what little cash it had left.

But all this could not detract from the fact that the MBA was a fine concept which ultimately failed due to hideous management.

Right at the start, it had been explained that the daring practice of using only the names of cities and provinces in the naming of teams could prove fatal, because these vehicles had no commercial value.

The best we could say about the MBA is that it was good while it lasted.

It could, however, be likened now to a deodorant which, after failing to deliver desired results, is trying to lure prospective users again with bigger promises.

***

Well, not even President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, despite her newfound optimism, could be caught dead vouching for a league like the MBA.

She cannot be expected to do for the dead league what she has been doing for the *galungong* and the peso.

In fact, Philippine Basketball Association Commissioner Jun Bernardino, scheduled to announce his year-end retirement today, cannot consider the fall of the rival MBA as one of his achievements.

For the record, Jun B. loved to explain that he had never considered the MBA a rival of the PBA.

Other than this, there were earlier contentions that the MBA, with its faulty set-up, would've nevertheless floundered given the sound management style of the PBA.

***

Anyway, the best the MBA can do at this stage is to be honest to itself.

Because, as it tries to hang on with the use of grandiose promises, the MBA is horridly jamming the plans of its personnel, mainly top players like Rommel Adducul, who must be able to pursue their respective careers.

After ending up a failure, the MBA must now make sure it does not contribute to the failure of many other promising people.

Actually, this piece was originally intended as a send-off, a sort of requiem for the MBA.

However, this chapter in Philippine basketball can be properly closed only after the MBA has honored its pending obligations.

If it indeed intends, as it has loudly claimed, to be back again, the MBA must first show it's capable of paying its existing debts.

Only then can the basketball historian start writing a new chapter.

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

Jackie's latest 'trash,' J. Lo's ex, and 'VPL'

KRIS AND TELL

Kris Aquino

PEOPLE ask me all the time what I'm currently reading. While I used to average a minimum of five books a month, my taping schedule is so tight that I'm now down to just two books a month.

I'm now reading something a bit "trashy" but thoroughly addictive, **Jackie Collins**' latest, "Lethal Seduction."

It's an excellent example of a no-thinking, strictly-for-relaxing, no-intellectual-pretensions-whatsoever type of book. **Zsa Zsa (Padilla)** brought it home for me two weeks ago when she planed in from her US concerts with Freestyle.

I'm not sure if it's already available locally but it's a fun book. It offers no life lessons or insights about human nature, but sometimes reading should just be that, fun.

P. Diddy

If you're wondering what I'm listening to, it's **Sean** "P. Diddy" **Combs**' latest CD, "We Invented the Re Mix." I'm a believer in "love conquers all," and his song, "I Need a Girl", with rap lyrics specifically and unmistakably for **Jennifer Lopez**, is a favorite.

Now that she's divorced from **Cris Judd**, her husband of less than a year (I read in US magazine that he is half-Filipino, courtesy of his mom), I really feel that a reconciliation for J. Lo and Puff Daddy is not impossible.

When Puff Daddy raps the line, "You're the one I will always miss," I believe him.

When we shopped in Louis Vuitton in Rodeo Drive, Puff Daddy was there again. He's my type of guy for he not only has taste, he also knows how to match his gifts. And he cared enough to personally choose his no-particular-occasion, just-being-thoughtful gift.

I overheard him saying that Jennifer, who was then his girlfriend, was shooting a film, and he was in LA to visit her. He wanted to surprise her with an overnight travel bag and matching make-up. His huge bodyguard asked that the items be boxed and wrapped and they would return for them after they had gone around the other stores because Puffy wanted to make sure Jennifer had them by the time he visited her set later in the evening.

Thongs

Credit it to the influence of **Pops (Fernandez)** and Zsa Zsa, and their total hatred of VPL (visible panty lines), I'm now a belated convert to thong underwear.

For those of you out there who want the aesthetic advantage of thongs but still want some tummy control, Marks and Spencer has some great, seamless, tummy controlling thongs in beige, black, and white. I've hoarded my share, but I'm pretty sure that they still have some in stock.

Carefree makes panty liners specifically for g-string or thong underwear, and it's a great innovation.

Thank goodness we women must really be such a strong market force that our needs are being immediately addressed.

Sodas and 9501

I love citrusy carbonated drinks. Sunkist and Royal are my two favorite orange sodas. For the longest time, Zesto *calamansi* soda has also been a favorite.

Just the other day during taping I had a can of Zesto *dalandan* soda. Wow, it was delicious! Super refreshing! Zesto is a *Pinoy* brand and their latest product innovation makes me proud of what we *Pinoys* can do when we really put our minds to it.

As far as restaurants are concerned, I can't update you because I haven't been able to eat out in any new places except for the cafe in the new ABS CBN building, 9501's 13th-floor coffee and quick order eating venue. I love their merienda fare, especially their *pancit* and the banana *turron* with jackfruit.

If you're in the Quezon City area, this cafe is open to everybody. It does offer very reasonably priced food, served in a stylish, studio commissary style setting.

If you want to bump into ABS CBN personalities, any of the restaurants at The Loop is a good bet. This is our version of Universal Studios City Walk, and the place is slowly but surely coming alive.

Whatever happened to balance programming?

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

TIME was when TV channels tried to come up with balanced programming, a varied mix of shows, program types and styles that appealed to a wide variety of niche audiences.

Morning newscasts informed people about the previous day's events before they went to the office. Shows for children, housewives and household help were followed by noontime variety shows for students, then by afternoon soaps and public-service shows.

The evening hours included newscasts, musicals, game shows, sitcoms, drama series, documentaries, late-night talk shows, news-analysis programs, etc.

These days, TV programming has gone out of whack due to the much more competitive nature of the medium. The policy now is not to give viewers a choice, but to bombard them with the most popular program types of any given moment.

This season, the most popular programs are TV soap operas and game shows, so that's what the channels dish out, until they're coming out of our eyes and ears. Imagine three or four soaps each weeknight, plus some 10 game or quiz shows throughout the week? Much too much!

So, why do the channels do it? Because they have to try to get the highest ratings possible, not just to defeat but to demolish the competition. So, if a channel comes up with a show that turns out to be a hit, the other TV outfits have to quickly produce similar programs which they schedule on the same time slot, to cut down the first channel's rating advantage.

The TV scene has become so competitive that even less popular formats like newscasts, educational shows for children, and documentaries have been affected. In decades past, the networks didn't pay these formats much mind because they didn't figure in the ratings "war."

These days, however, *all* time slots have become competitive. So, newscasts are being forced to jazz up the news, documentaries are being made to deal with more controversial topics to generate greater viewership, and some educational shows are being terminated to make way for more "income-generating" programs.

Why has this major shift been allowed to happen? Because viewers have accepted it without protest. Even the niche audiences that no longer have shows that fill their needs have meekly accepted the "death" of shows they used to enjoy.

As long as viewers remain meek and mute, "unbalanced" programmers will ride roughshod over local television, looking out not for the audience's interests, but for that all-important supremacy in the ratings, and the financial bottom line.

Feedback

FROM **Che-Che Lazaro**: "I read your review of 'The Probe Team's' 15th-aniversary shows. How true that you ask why we underwent that three-day torture! It didn't seem logical at first, but after having survived the first night, the reasons for it fell into place.

"It was fun, but I am left with so many remembrances of it—scars and bruises on my legs!

"Thank you for watching, and many more thank-you's for keeping tabs of our 15 years!"

* * *

From **Emmanuel S. Espino** of Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija: "I enjoyed the recent 'Ribbon' episode on Channel 2's 'Maala-ala Mo Kaya,' starring **Camille Prats**. The visuals were good and the story was fresh. The director, **Cathy Garcia-Molina**, motivated the actors well.

"If I'm not mistaken, she's also the co-director of the *teleserye*, 'Sa Puso Ko, Iingatan Ka.' Let's hope that she can direct a movie in the future. Paging Star Cinema!

"There are many talented young directors at ABS-CBN: **Don Cuaresma** ('Tanging Yaman'), **Erick C. Salud** ('Recuerdo de Amor'), **Malu Sevilla** ('Tabing-Ilog'), **Laurenti Dyogi** ('G-Mik'), and **Jerome P. Pobocan** ('Maala-ala Mo Kaya'). We need directors like them in the movie industry.

"Please feature these directors and their future TV-film projects. I just love TV and the movies. And I've learned a lot from you."

Onemig's foundation

OFFICIAL Youth Spokesperson **Onemig Bondoc** recently launched his United As One Foundation. It is committed to preserve family values, safeguard the environment and promote education.

The launch also promoted brotherhood and unity by way of a fashion show featuring the designs of **Ramon Favila** and **Eddie Castro**. **Jolina Magdangal**, also a Youth Spokesperson, graced the occasion.

On Star Movies

WE'VE just gotten a list of films set to be screened on the Star Movies channel in August. Here are some interesting movies you may want to watch out for:

Friday, Aug. 2 at 8:30 a.m., "Vertical Ray of the Sun." A Vietnamese film that was officially selected by the 2000 Cannes filmfest. On the occasion of the anniversary of the death of their mother, three sisters and their brother meet at the eldest sister's cafe. Each of them hides a secret they dare not reveal. This luscious visual feast is a novel, sensual and poignant comedy.

At 10:45 p.m., "Cookie's Fortune." **Robert Altman** directs this bittersweet ensemble piece about an eccentric and entangled group of family and friends living in the deep South.

Camille (**Glenn Close**) is shocked to discover that her Aunt Jewel (**Patricia Neal**) has committed suicide. Terrified at the thought of how this will tarnish the family name, she eats the suicide note and makes the case look like a burglary.

This leads the police to a main suspect, who happens to be Cookie's (Aunt Jewel's) best friend. Although the town is convinced that he didn't commit the crime, an outside investigator isn't so sure.

Eventually, the truth comes out, revealing more secrets than anyone could have possibly imagined. **Julianne Moore**, **Liv Tyler** and **Chris O'Donnell** also star.

Diet lets it all out in Blow

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

IS **DIETHER Ocampo** seriously trying to be a singer?

He must have enjoyed performing live as part of The Hunks—with **Piolo Pascual**, **Bernard Palanca**, **Carlos Agassi** and **Jericho Rosales**—so much that he put up his own band.

He is the vocalist and leader of the four-man group Blow, which had a debut performance during his birthday party last July 19 at Rockstar (formerly Po Na Na) in Libis, Quezon City, the new night haunt partly owned by Bernard and **Hans Montenegro**.

"It's been my long-time dream to have my own band," shares Diet, who just turned 26. "We don't really have regular gigs and we only perform in selected places depending on my schedule. We do it for fun."

Blow was casually formed one night when Diet and his friends were at the Flute Bar in Salcedo Village, Makati City. The bar owner, who is his friend, asked his group to do an impromptu number.

"We never took it seriously until that night," Diet says.

The other members of the band are **Michael Ong**, brother of Diet's best friend **Andy**, on guitar; Michael's cousin **Jasper**, percussion and second vocals; and **Lex**, lead guitar.

Blow performs alternative and classic rock. It cannot, however, do regular gigs because of Diet's schedule. But it can be seen occasionally at Club Sex (Sound Experience), a night spot on Bautista Street in Makati owned by architect **RJ Borromeo**, brother of model **Patricia Borromeo**.

As part of The Hunks, Diet continues to be seen on ABS-CBN's Sunday noontime show, "Asap."

In September, The Hunks will perform in Dubai. The following month, they will do their second US tour this year, with shows in Chicago, New Jersey, Atlanta and Honolulu.

Given a choice, Diet prefers to be on TV more often. "I'm lucky because as an ABS-CBN talent, I'm given constant exposure on TV," he says. "It's a more stable means of income."

Diet also stars in the daily afternoon soap, "Recuerdo de Amor," with **Carmina Villaroel**.

"But I also enjoy making movies," Diet maintains. "A film project is something I always look forward to. It's like a big event in my life. I find it a challenge preparing for the role."

His first film for this year is Star Cinema's youth-oriented comedy, "Jologs," where he costars with **Assunta de Rossi**, **Michelle Bayle**, **Julia Clarete** and **Onemig Bondoc**, among others.

Directed by **Gilbert Perez**, "Jologs" is written by **Ned Trespeces**, the top prize winner in Star Cinema's first annual scriptwriting contest in 2000.

The screenplay, chosen from over 200 entries, has six different but interconnected stories.

Last year, Diet was in two films, in **Chito Roño**'s "La Vida Rosa" with **Rosanna Roces**, where he showed his derriere in a shower scene; and in by **Maryo J. de los Reyes**' "Ano Ba'ng Meron Ka" with **Joyce Jimenez.**

BOOB TUBE BABY. Diether Ocampo says he prefers TV for the stable income.

Off to Toronto

JOEL Lamangan's "Hubog" and **Gil Portes**' "Munting Tinig" have been chosen for exhibition in the Toronto Film Festival in September.

Both films star young actress **Alessandra de Rossi**, although in "Hubog," she shares stellar billing with her older sister Assunta.

Alessandra will attend the film festival, according to her manager **Manny Valera**.

"Munting Tinig" will have a world premiere in Toronto, before it is shown in Manila in October, said Manny.

Pirated DVD

AN editor of a major daily was bragging to me that he was able to buy a pirated DVD copy of **Mel Gibson**'s latest movie, "Signs," in Greenhills. He knows that I'm a huge Mel Gibson fan.

The video pirates even told the editor that "Signs" is available only on DVDs, but VCD copies will be released soon.

New Videogram Regulatory Board (VRB) chair **Bong Revilla Jr**. recently raided the den of video pirates in Shoppesville, Greenhills. Apparently, there are still more.

But with Bong's aggressive anti-piracy crusade, video pirates are now scampering to find a new place for their illegal trade.

The action star and former Cavite governor is relentless. Last Wednesday, Bong presented nearly 2 million fake discs rounded up in three days of raid. He swears there will be more raids and that his office is only waiting for warrants of arrest.

President **Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo** showed up at the Philippine National Police headquarters in Camp Crame to witness the destruction of the pirated discs to show support for Bong whom she appointed to the VRB.

I heard that Rudy Fernandez vowed to support his fellow action star's campaign. I hope the likes of **Sharon Cuneta**, **Aga Muhlach**, **Vilma Santos** and even action king **Fernando Poe Jr**. will also be behind Bong.

Pleasant experience

IF YOU still haven't watched a movie at the tony Greenbelt 3 Cinemas, then you're missing out on a pleasurable viewing experience.

The state-of-the-art cinemas are patterned after the multiplexes in the United States which are comfy, compact and perfect for big screen viewing. The theaters are small but neither cramped nor claustrophobic.

The lobby is carpeted and the rest rooms are spanking and clean. To say that they're nothing like we have seen in Manila before might sound a little too much, but there's no exaggerating its distinction.

Parking is easily accessible. Even if you park at Greenbelt 2, escalators will lead you to the theaters. A food court is open until midnight.

My friends and I caught the screening of the French film "Amelie" (by **Jean-Piere Jeunet**) Monday night at Greenbelt 3. We were told Tuesday was the last day of the screening, but "Amelie" apparently continues to bring in the crowds. It is still showing at Greenbelt 3.

I'll take "Amelie" anytime over "Men in Black 2," whose only saving factors were the gorgeous **Will Smith** and Frank the bull dog, which sends the audience in stitches when it sings **Gloria Gaynor**'s "I Will Survive" or the Baha Men's "Who Let the Dogs Out."

Jam with Dr. Larry at Kiko's

MALLARI

FONDLY called Dr. Larry, Larry Mallari is a dentist by profession with a great passion for music. His onstage charisma will enchant the audience as he weaves his musical magic by singing favorite love songs, OPM and Broadway hits.

An ideal host in making guests comfortable, Dr. Larry effortlessly brings out the singer in any sing-along loving Pinoy. He is a certified crowd drawer in many corporate and private functions.

The man turns regular Tuesday nights into an experience as he plays oido on his baby grand piano, while engaging his audience in a witty repartee, at Kiko Bar (2/F Villa bldg., Makati Avenue corner Jupiter st., Makati City). Jam with Dr. Larry as he brings out melodies from the heart.

For more information, call 895-1666 or 895 1669.

For screening times, call 729-7777.
Schedules are subject to change without prior notice.

AYALA CINEMAS NOW SHOWING

G1 GLORIETTA 1	G4 GLORIETTA 4	GB1 GREENBELT 1	GB3 GREENBELT 3	ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1 MEN IN BLACK 2	1 8 LEGGED FREAKS (Sneak Preview)	1 A RETROSPECTIVE OF GURO DUTT	1 SORORITY BOYS 12:25, 2:35, 4:45, 6:55, 9:05, 11:15	1 SORORITY BOYS
2 SORORITY BOYS	2 THE THIRD WHEEL	2 THE YIN-YANG MASTER	2 MEN IN BLACK 2 11:20, 1:20, 3:20, 5:20, 7:20, 9:20, 11:20	2 MEN IN BLACK 2
3 MEGIDDO	3 MEN IN BLACK 2 11:40, 1:50, 4:00, 6:10, 8:20, 10:30	3	3 8 LEGGED FREAKS 12:30, 2:40, 4:50, 7:00, 9:10, 11:20	3 8 LEGGED FREAKS (Sneak Previews)
4 8 LEGGED FREAKS (Sneak Preview)	4 LIFE OR SOMETHING...	RICO J. PUNO IN SOMETHING WONDERFUL AUG. 16 - 9:00 PM	4 AMELIE 1:00, 3:35, 6:10, 8:45, 11:20	4 MEGIDDO
	5 HIGH CRIMES		5 THIRD WHEEL 11:20, 1:20, 3:20, 5:20, 7:20, 9:20, 11:20	5 THE THIRD WHEEL
	6 SORORITY BOYS			
	7 MEGIDDO			

Reserve your seats by texting "SURESEATS G4" (or any Ayala Cinema) and send to 2333. Or log on to www.sureseats.com.

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MOVIE GUIDE
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EMAIL: mmta@asia.com

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 (SDDS) MEGIDDO
2 (SDDS) MEN IN BLACK 2
3 (DTS) MINORITY REPORT
4 GOLD (DTS) MEGIDDO
5 GOLD (DOLBY) EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
6 GOLD (SDDS) SORORITY BOYS
7 GOLD (DOLBY) MEN IN BLACK 2
8 40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS
9 THE THIRD WHEEL
10 SUM OF ALL FEARS

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486
1 RESERVE
2 HANGGANG KAILAN AKO PAPATAY
3 (DTS) RESERVE
4
5
6 (DTS)
Golden Pearl THX

Masagana CINEMA
TEL. 551 63 87
1 EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
2 MEN IN BLACK 2
3 MEGIDDO

starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986
1 MEGIDDO
2 DOG SOLDIER
3 EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL) MEN IN BLACK 2
5 LIGAYA PANTASYA NG BAYAN

METROPOLIS star
tel 850.4285
1 MEN IN BLACK 2
2 HIYAS
3 DOG SOLDIER
4 MEGIDDO
5 EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
6 SORORITY BOYS
7
8

PREMIERE CINEMA THX
(Makati City) TEL. 751-2010 TO 13
1 EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 KAPALIT
2 BAD COMPANY

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC
tel 930.9515
1
2 HANGGANG KAILAN AKO PAPATAY
3

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864
1 HANGGANG KAILAN AKO PAPATAY
A

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376
1 JIHAD WARRIORS
2 HANGGANG KAILAN AKO PAPATAY
3 LAKAS AT PAG IBIG
4 BUSINESS PLEASURES

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City
(Manila) tel 734.8588
1 (DOLBY) MEN IN BLACK 2
2
3
4 HANGGANG KAILAN AKO PAPATAY
5 THIRD WHEEL
6 DOG SOLDIER
7 (DTS) MEGIDDO
8 (SDDS) SORORITY BOYS
9 (DOLBY) EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS

Gotesco Caloocan
tel 362.3508
2 RESERVE

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781
1 KAPALIT
2 HANGGANG KAILAN AKO PAPATAY
3 DOG SOLDIER
4 (SDDS) MEGIDDO
5 EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
6 (DOLBY) MEN IN BLACK 2
7 (DTS) SORORITY BOYS
8 KATAWAN MO...
9 FOREVERMORE

Gotesco Commonwealth
tel 951.0083
1 (DTS)
2
3
4 HANGGANG KAILAN AKO PAPATAY
5 (SDDS) MEN IN BLACK 2
6 EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
7 (DOLBY) SORORITY BOYS
8 MEGIDDO

Gotesco Ortigas
tel 656.6795
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2 EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
3 (DTS) DOG SOLDIER
4 HANGGANG KAILAN AKO PAPATAY
5 (SDDS) MEN IN BLACK 2

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470
1 HANGGANG KAILAN AKO PAPATAY

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(Cubao) tel 911.7888
1 HANGGANG KAILAN AKO PAPATAY

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2 EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
3 RESERVE
4 HANGGANG KAILAN AKO PAPATAY
5 MEGIDDO

New Divisoria Mall
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1
2
3
4
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6

FRC Cinema
Talaba Bacoor Cavite
1 HANGGANG KAILAN AKO PAPATAY
2 MEN IN BLACK 2

Berma
TEL. 879 21 68 / 879 21 67
1 HANGGANG KAILAN AKO PAPATAY
2 MEN IN BLACK 2

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269
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2

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
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1 EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
2 LIGAYA PANTASYA NG BAYAN
3 (DTS) MEN IN BLACK 2

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 MONSTER BALL
2 (DTS) EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
3 (DOLBY) MEN IN BLACK 2
4 ALL ABOUT BENJAMIN

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
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4 ALL ABOUT BENJAMIN

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1 KAPALIT
2 MEN IN BLACK 2
3 BAD COMPANY
4

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(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
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2 BAD COMPANY
3 (DOLBY) MEN IN BLACK 2
4 (DTS) POWERPUFF GIRLS

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2 OROGA
3 HIYAS
4 (DTS) HANGGANG KAILAN ...

Lianas MovieCity
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2 ALL ABOUT BENJAMIN
3 (DTS) EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
4 SELDA
5 MONSTER BALL

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
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2 EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
3 SELDA

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1 MEN IN BLACK 2
2 BAD COMPANY
3 EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS

Olivarez Tagaytay
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1 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) .11.9736
1
2
3

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808
1 (DTS) SELDA
2 (DTS) RESERVE

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385
1 RESERVE

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657
1 SUGAT
2 BAD COMPANY
3 KAPALIT

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 MEN IN BLACK 2
2 POWERPUFF GIRLS
3 MONSTER BALL
4 A WALK TO REMEMBER

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
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2 KAPALIT
3 (DTS) MEN IN BLACK 2
4 BIG FAT LIAR

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1 DOG SOLDIERS
2 MINORITY REPORT
3 MEN IN BLACK II
4 SORORITY BOYS
5 8 LEGGED FREAKS
6 MEGIDDO
7 FRUIT IS SWELLING
8 FOREVERMORE

SM CENTERPOINT
7149522 -7161416
1 SORORITY BOYS
2 DOG SOLDIERS
3 8 LEGGED FREAKS
4 THE THIRD WHEEL
5 MEN IN BLACK 2
6 KAPALIT
7 MEGIDDO
8 SUM OF ALL FEARS
9 MINORITY REPORT
10 FOREVERMORE

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749
1 BAD COMPANY
2 MINORITY REPORT
3 CASS & CARY
4 MEN IN BLACK II
5 MEGIDDO
6 FOREVERMORE
7 8 LEGGED FREAKS
8 DOG SOLDIERS
9 SORORITY BOYS
10 MEN IN BLACK II
11 SUGAT
12 HANGGANG KAILAN . . .

SM CITY MANILA
5239240
1 SORORITY BOYS
2 8 LEGGED FREAKS
3 THIRD WHEEL
4 MEGIDDO
5 DOG SOLDIERS
6 MEN IN BLACK 2
7 BIG FAT LIAR
8 HIGH CRIMES
9 MEN IN BLACK 2
10 FOREVERMORE
11 KAPALIT
12 MINORITY REPORT

SM MEGAMALL
6331901 • 6329401
1 BIG FAT LIAR
2 MEGIDDO
3 8 LEGGED FREAKS
4 MEN IN BLACK II
5 DOG SOLDIERS
6 FOREVERMORE
7 HIGH CRIMES
8 MINORITY REPORT
9 SORORITY BOYS
10 SUM OF ALL FEARS
11 MEN IN BLACK 2
12 THE THIRD WHEEL

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452
1 MINORITY REPORT
2 MEN IN BLACK II
3 THIRD WHEEL
4 MEGIDDO
5 SORORITY BOYS
6 DOG SOLDIERS
7 8 LEGGED FREAKS
8 MEN IN BLACK II

SM SOUTHMALL
8066888
1 SORORITY BOYS
2 FOREVERMORE
3 MEN IN BLACK II
4 DOG SOLDIERS
5 THE THIRD WHEEL
6 KAPALIT
7 MEN IN BLACK II
8 8 LEGGED FREAKS
9 MINORITY REPORT
10 MEGIDDO

SM CITY CEBU
2313876
1 MEN IN BLACK II
2 JUST VISITING
3 A WALK TO REMEMBER
4 BIG FAT LIAR
5 POWERPUFF GIRLS
6 CROSSROADS
7 MINORITY REPORT
8 MEN IN BLACK II

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422
1 JUST VISITING
2 CLOSED
3 A WALK TO REMEMBER
4 LIFE OR SOMETHING . . .
5 KAPALIT
6 MEN IN BLACK II
7 CLOSED
8 A WALK TO REMEMBER

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128016
1 MEN IN BLACK II
2 ALL ABOUT BENJAMIN
3 BIG FAT LIAR
4 CASS & CARY
5 KATAWAN MO . . .
6 HIGH CRIMES

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8284975
1 SORORITY BOYS
2 MEN IN BLACK II
3 8 LEGGED FREAKS
4 MEGIDDO

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302
1 MEN IN BLACK II
2 SORORITY BOYS
3 MEGIDDO
4 8 LEGGED FREAKS

SM CITY DAVAO
2976998
1 ALL ABOUT BENJAMIN
2 KAPALIT
3 BIG FAT LIAR
4 JUST VISITING
5 LIFE OR SOMETHING . . .
6 MEN IN BLACK 2

SM BICUTAN
1
2
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4
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3
4
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6369781-85 loc 120
1 MEN IN BLACK II
11:00 MF / 1:00 / 3:00 / 5:00 / 7:00 / 9:00 / 10:30 / 11:00 LMF / 12:40 END
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7 MINORITY REPORT
8 HIGH CRIMES
9 BAD COMPANY
10 KAPALIT

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1 DOG SOLDIER
2 MEN IN BLACK II
3 SORORITY BOYS
4 THIRD WHEEL
5 MINORITY REPORT
6 KAPALIT
7 MEGIDDO

Metro East - Marcos hway 682- 8193 / 8280
1 THIRD WHEEL
2 MEN IN BLACK II
3 MINORITY REPORT
4 MEGIDDO
5 HIGH CRIMES
6 DOG SOLDIER
7 SORORITY BOYS
8 KAPALIT

Novaliches 935- 3229 - 30
1 MEN IN BLACK II
2 RESERVED
3 THIRD WHEEL
4 HIGH CRIMES
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6 MINORITY REPORT
7 DOG SOLDIER
8 SORORITY BOYS

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1 MEGIDDO
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4 MEN IN BLACK II
5 FRUIT IS SWELLING
6 HANGGANG KAILAN . . .

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1 MEN IN BLACK II
2 A WALK TO REMEMBER
3 LIFE OR SOMETHING . . .
4 JUST VISITING
5 ALL ABOUT THE BENJAMINS
6 SLACKRES

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2 LIFE OR SOMETHING . . .
3 MEN IN BLACK
4 KAPALIT
5 JUST VISITING
6 AMELIE

Star Mills- San Fernando, Pamp 875- 1927 961-5318 / 5270
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4 MEN IN BLACK II
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J Lo divorces hubby after less than a year

LOS ANGELES—Actress-singer Jennifer Lopez filed for divorce on Thursday from her dancer-husband Cris Judd, citing irreconcilable differences after less than a year of marriage.

The divorce papers were filed in Los Angeles Superior Court the day after Lopez celebrated her 32nd birthday. Lawyers said the pair had also reached a financial settlement agreement.

Details were not disclosed.

"Jennifer Lopez and Cris Judd have announced they have resolved all issues arising out of their marriage. The resolution was extremely amicable . . . The two will remain friends," a statement issued by their lawyers said.

The couple, who met while working on Lopez's music video "Love Don't Cost a Thing," married in September last year and separated on June 2, according to the court papers.

Lopez had turned to Judd after splitting with her long-time boyfriend, rap impresario Sean "P.Diddy" Combs, during his much publicized trial in New York on weapons and bribery charges. Combs was later acquitted.

Judd was the second husband of the Latina diva, whose music and movie career took off last year with both the hit film "The Wedding Planner" and her chart-topping album "J.Lo."

Her first marriage, to Ojani Noa, ended in divorce in 1998 after about a year.

Reports at the time of their separation said Lopez and Judd were still friendly but were no longer living together.

But the actress, regarded as one of Hollywood's sexiest celebrities, has recently been linked by tabloid media reports to actor Ben Affleck, her co-star in her next movie "Gigli."

According to one report, Affleck took Lopez out for a birthday lunch in Manhattan on Wednesday and presented her with a diamond bracelet.

Bronx-born Lopez has two more movies lined up this year and is also recording her next album, her publicist said. In the past two years she has also launched her own clothing line and opened a Cuban restaurant in Pasadena, near Los Angeles, hiring her first ex-husband Ojani Noa to run it.

Reuters

Local Elvis Presley impersonators off to Japan

LOCAL Elvis Presley impersonators Chito Bertol and Edgar Opida will represent the Philippines in the Elvis 25th anniversary concert, "Elvis Forever in Asia," to be held Aug. 17 at Kudan Kaikan Auditorium in Tokyo, Japan.

Hosting the project is the official Elvis Presley Fan Club of Tokyo, with membership of over 5,000. The club will shoulder all expenses of participating Elvis Presley impersonators including those from other Asian countries like Hong Kong (Johnny Ma), Malaysia (H T Long) and Thailand (Vasu Sangsingkeo).

Bertol and Opida will be sent by the Elvis Presley Friendship Club Philippines International, duly accredited by Graceland, Memphis, USA.

Chito is the founding chair of the club and has an ongoing program, "The Elvis Presley Sunday Specials," at dzSR-AM 918 khz on Sundays, from 8 to 10 a.m.

ELVIS Presley impersonators Chito Bertol (left) and Edgar Opida.

'Monsters, Inc.' now on video

"MONSTERS, Inc.," the instant classic movie from Disney and Pixar, will soon be available on VHS, VCD and DVD formats. The original videos will include never-before-seen features like a sneak peek at Disney/Pixar's upcoming film "Finding Nemo" and an animated short film, "Mike's New Car," created exclusively for the video release of "Monsters, Inc."

POWER PLANT
CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City
☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

THIRD WHEEL - P 13
12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 5:55, 7:50, 9:45

SORORITY BOYS - R 18
1:30, 3:40, 5:50, 8:00, 10:10

EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS - P 13
12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00

MEN IN BLACK 2 - P13
12:10, 2:20, 4:10, 6:10, 8:10, 10:10

MEGIDDO - P 13
12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00

LIFE OR SOMETHING LIKE IT - P 13
11:40, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30

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P 13

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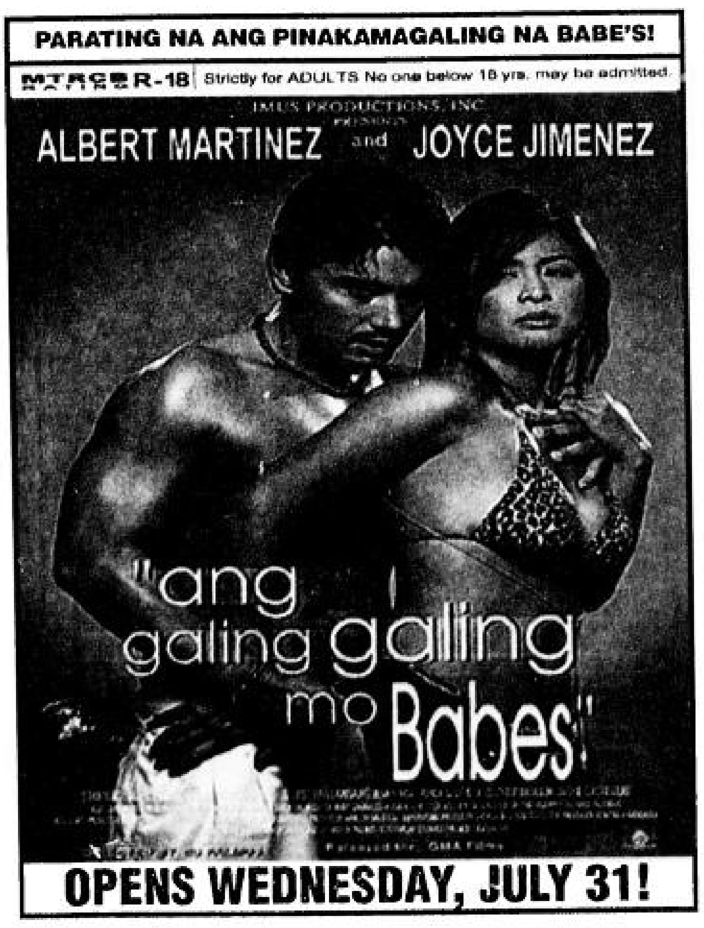
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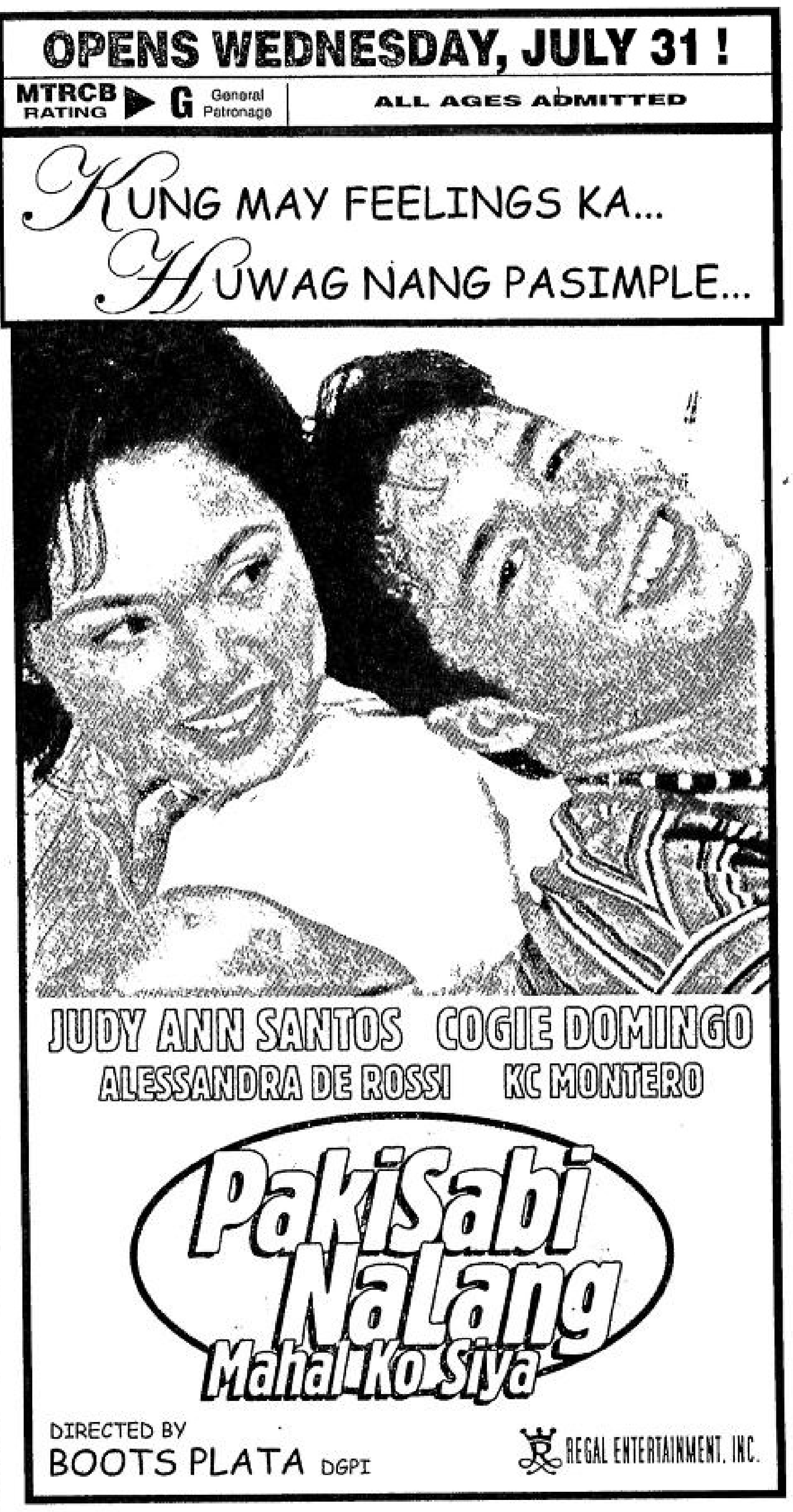
OPENS WEDNESDAY, JULY 31!

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101	
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	MEN IN BLACK 2
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	MEGIDDO
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	MEN IN BLACK 2
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	SORORITY BOYS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	DOG SOLDIERS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	MINORITY REPORT
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7(DOLBY)	HIGH CRIMES
FARMERS PLAZA-1(DOLBY)	HANGGANG KAILAN AKO PAPATAY
FARMERS PLAZA-2(DOLBY)	MEN IN BLACK 2
FIESTA CARNIVAL	
NEW FRONTIER	
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	LIGAYA, PANTASYA NG BAYAN/ SENSUAL FEELING
ODEON	MEGIDDO
ODEON-2	KILABOT AT KEMBOT / WE WERE SOLDIER
ROBEN	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO / DEVILS MASK
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
REMAR	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
REMAR-2	SUGAT
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	HANGGANG KAILAN AKO PAPATAY
B	
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	POWER PUFF GIRLS
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	CASS & CARY
CINEMA-2	KAPALIT
CINEMA-3	HANGGANG KAILAN AKO PAPATAY
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	THIRD WHEEL
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	POWERPUFF GIRLS
CINEMA-6	HIYAS SA PARAISO
CINEMA-7	SELDA
CINEMA-8	FOREVERMORE
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	MEN IN BLACK 2
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	MEN IN BLACK 2
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	SORORITY BOYS
CINEMA-12	MEGIDDO
CINEMA-14	DOG SOLDIERS
CINEMA-15	MINORITY REPORT
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	THIRD WHEEL
CINEMA-2	SORORITY BOYS
CINEMA-3	MEN IN BLACK 2
CINEMA-4	MEGIDDO
CINEMA-5	LIFE OR SOMETHING LIKE IT
CINEMA-6	MEN IN BLACK 2
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
CINEMA-2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
CINEMA-4	ALAMID


OPENS WEDNESDAY, JULY 31 !
MTRCB RATING ▶ G General Patronage
ALL AGES ADMITTED
KUNG MAY FEELINGS KA...
HUWAG NANG PASIMPLE...
JUDY ANN SANTOS
COGIE DOMINGO
ALESSANDRA DE ROSSI
KC MONTERO
PakiSabi NaLang Mahal Ko Siya
DIRECTED BY
BOOTS PLATA DGPI
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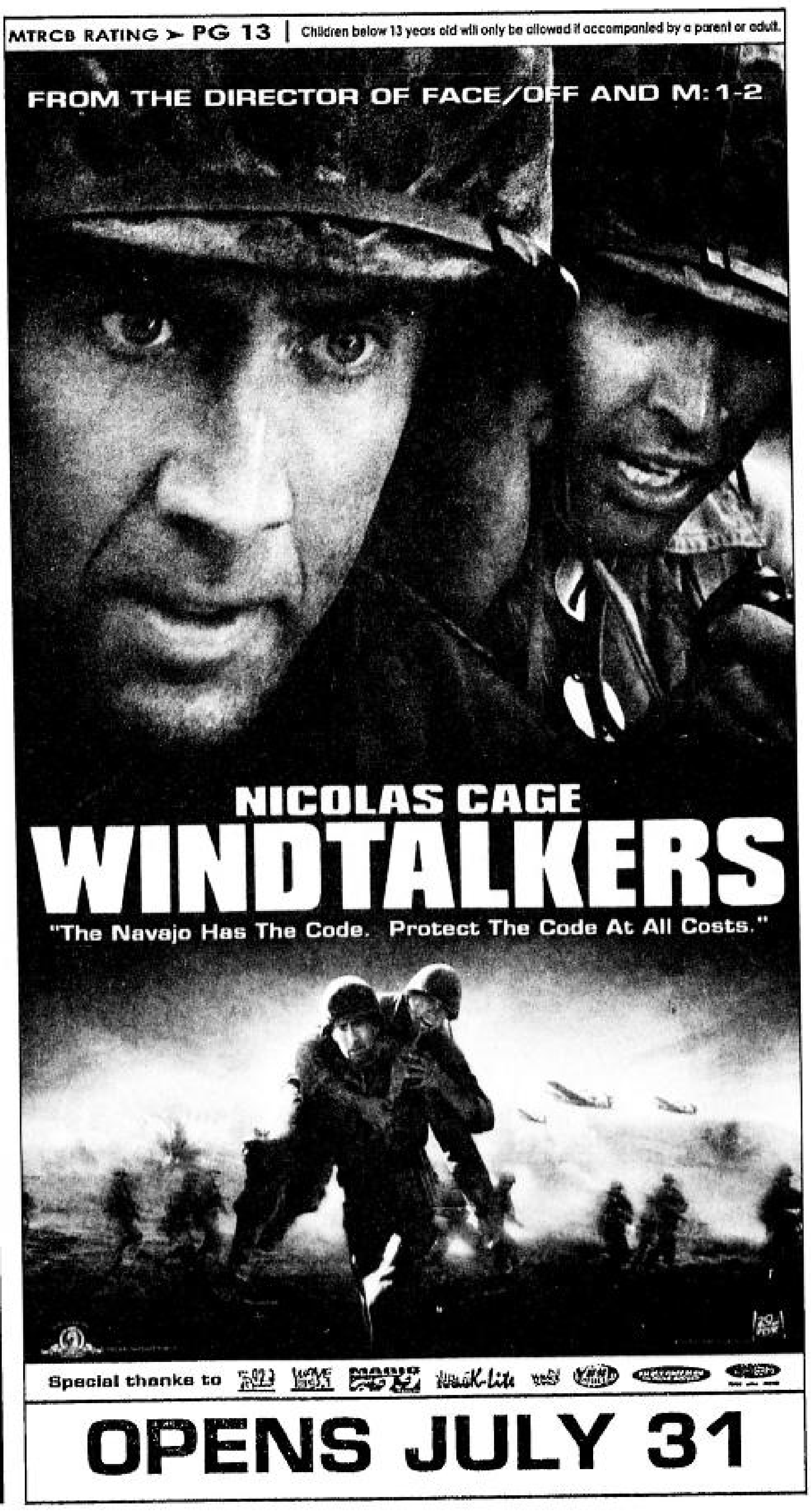
MTRCB RATING ➤ PG 13 | Children below 13 years old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.
FROM THE DIRECTOR OF FACE/OFF AND M:I-2
NICOLAS CAGE
WINDTALKERS
"The Navajo Has The Code. Protect The Code At All Costs."
Special thanks to
OPENS JULY 31

Jeffrey holds birthday concert

POP balladeer Jeffrey Hidalgo celebrates his birthday with a concert, "Intimate," 10 p.m. on July 30 at Klownz (Quezon Ave. near West Ave.).

Special guests include Dina Bonnevie, the Sexbomb Dancers and other surprise performers.

Jeffrey was a former member of the Smokey Mountain who launched his solo career with hits like "When I Met You" and "Ang Ganda-Ganda Mo."

Soon after, he tried his hand in theater. With unprecedented success, his earlier stints at the State University soon paved the way for more challenging roles, including the more recent "Alikabok," which will be restaged at the Music Museum from August 7 to 24, with Cris Villonco and Nonoy Zuñiga sharing stellar billing.

Jeffrey also earned the nod of advertising bigwigs for his laudable performance in "Ungol," the stage play that ushered in last year's AdCongress in Cebu.

Jeffrey also did a brief stint in the ABS-CBN telenovela, "Pangako Sa 'Yo," where he played the role of Kenneth.

In line with his birthday concert is the launch of his website courtesy of Webstars.Com.Ph, a new company owned and operated by specialists from the arts and entertainment industry.

Jeffrey has been chosen as the first featured artist of the company. Visit his website at www.webstars.com.ph/jeffrey hidalgo.

HIDALGO. Will also launch his website.

Jolina dolls, Powerpuff toys on sale

JOLINA Dolls, The Powerpuff Girls, Blues Clues Dolls, Spiderman, Scooby Doo, Dexter's Laboratory and other toys inspired by popular cartoon characters seen on TV and the movies, are up for sale at Sta. Lucia East Department Store's first annual toy fair 2002.

Pick from the educational toys and game boards for the whole family, storybooks and animated videos, offered at discounted prices.

Novelty items and party needs are also on sale. Enjoy indoor toys like a portable mini snooker and pool set for billiard enthusiasts.

A minimum purchase of P300 entitles a child to play "The Great Pachinco Game" and win a bagful of goodies from Gandtour Philippines. Be one of the lucky ones to take home a brand-new Sony Play Station III and Nintendo Game Boy Advance in the grand raffle draw in August.

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD SNEAK PREVIEW
July 29 & 30, 2002
(Monday & Tuesday)
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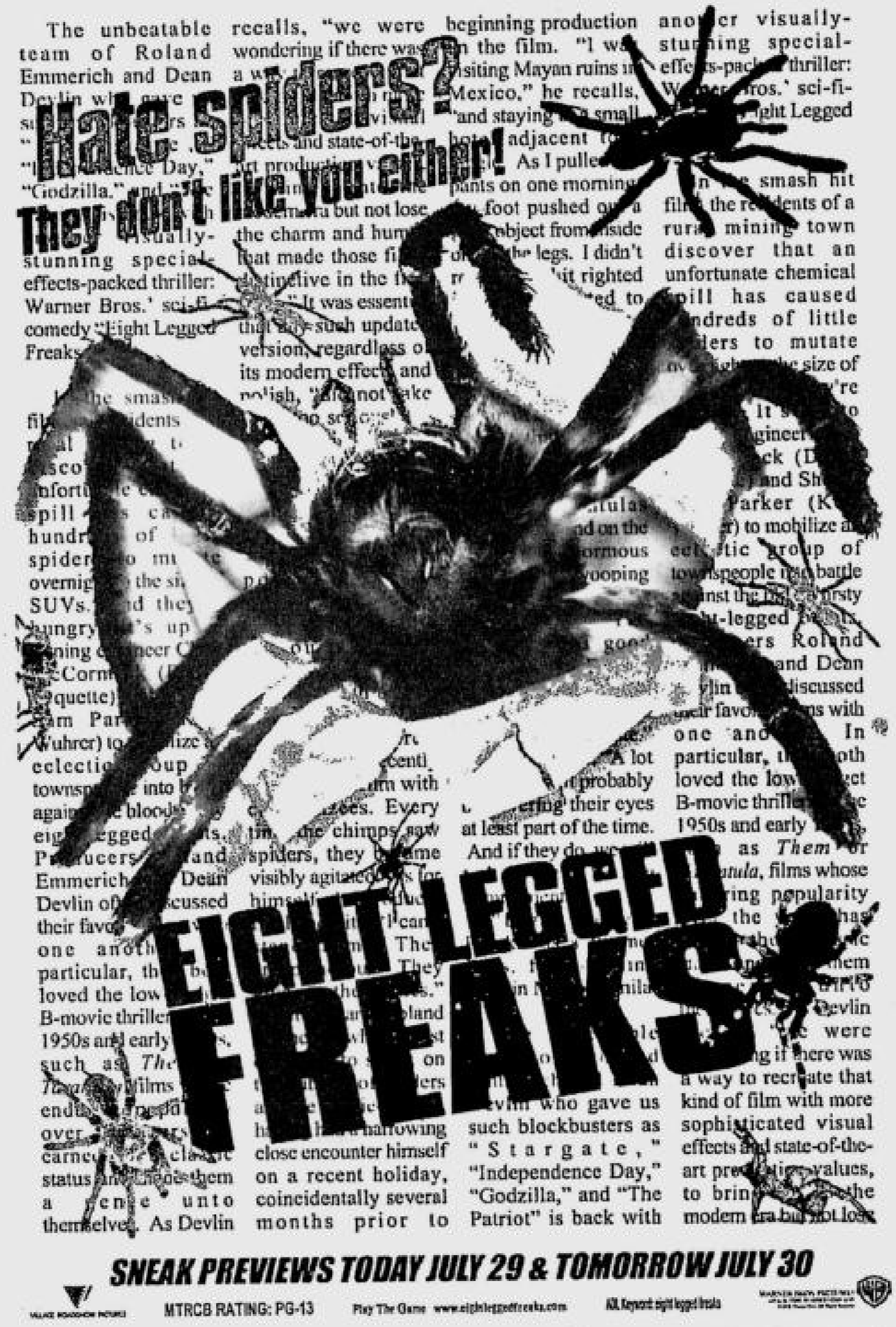

Hate spiders?
They don't like you either!
EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS

The unbeatable team of Roland Emmerich and Dean Devlin wh[illegible] "Godzilla," and [illegible] visually-stunning special-effects-packed thriller: Warner Bros.' sci-fi comedy "Eight Legged Freaks[illegible] the smas[illegible] fil[illegible] idents [illegible] spill [illegible] hundr[illegible] of [illegible] spider[illegible] overnig[illegible] the si[illegible] SUVs. [illegible]d they hungry [illegible]'s up [illegible]ning e[illegible]neer C[illegible] [illegible]Corm[illegible] [illegible]quette) [illegible]am Par[illegible] Wuhrer) to [illegible]lize eclectic [illegible]oup townsp[illegible] into [illegible] agai[illegible] bloodt[illegible] eig[illegible]legged [illegible]. Producers [illegible] and Emmerich [illegible] Dean Devlin of[illegible]scussed their favo[illegible] one anoth[illegible] particular, th[illegible] loved the low[illegible] B-movie thriller[illegible] 1950s and early [illegible] such as The[illegible] films [illegible] endu[illegible] over [illegible] carne[illegible] classic status [illegible] them a sense unto themselves. As Devlin recalls, "we were wondering if there was a w[illegible] ects and state-of-the-art producti[illegible] but not lose the charm and hum[illegible] that made those fi[illegible] distinctive in the fi[illegible] It was essent[illegible] that any such update[illegible] version, regardless o[illegible] its modern effects and polish, [illegible] not take [illegible] with [illegible]. Every ti[illegible] the chimps saw spiders, they became visibly agitated [illegible] harrowing close encounter himself on a recent holiday, coincidentally several months prior to beginning production on the film. "I w[illegible] visiting Mayan ruins in Mexico," he recalls, "and staying [illegible] small hot[illegible] adjacent [illegible] As I pulle[illegible] pants on one morning [illegible] foot pushed ou[illegible] object from inside [illegible] legs. I didn't [illegible] righted [illegible] A lot [illegible] probably [illegible] their eyes at least part of the time. And if they do [illegible] who gave us such blockbusters as "Stargate," "Independence Day," "Godzilla," and "The Patriot" is back with another visually-stunning special-effects-packed thriller: Warner Bros.' sci-fi [illegible]ight Legged [illegible] smash hit film the residents of a rural mining town discover that an unfortunate chemical spill has caused hundreds of little [illegible]ers to mutate [illegible] the size of [illegible] to mobilize a[illegible] eclectic group of townspeople [illegible] battle against the [illegible]rsty [illegible]-legged [illegible]ers Roland [illegible] and Dean [illegible] discussed their favo[illegible] with one and[illegible] In particular, [illegible]oth loved the low[illegible] B-movie thrille[illegible] 1950s and early [illegible] as Them or [illegible]ula, films whose [illegible] popularity [illegible] Devlin [illegible] were [illegible] if there was a way to recreate that kind of film with more sophisticated visual effects and state-of-the-art pr[illegible] values, to brin[illegible] the modern era bu[illegible]

SNEAK PREVIEWS TODAY JULY 29 & TOMORROW JULY 30
MTRCB RATING: PG-13
Play The Game www.eightleggedfreaks.com

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Two noble families compete for the emperor's favors. In their quest for power, they enlist the Yin-Yang Masters, Seimei & Doson. But an unforseen evil takes hold of Doson who now wants the emperor's throne for himself. It will be up to Seimei to stop him.
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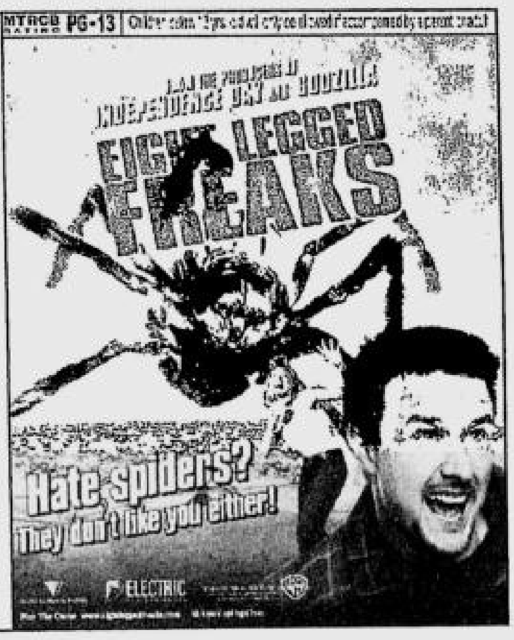

ArtFilm Greenbelt 1
INDIA
AYALA CINEMAS
DARING AWARD-WINNING EXTRAORDINARY

July 26 (FRI)
Aar Paar 12:30 pm
Aar Paar 3:30 pm
Baazi 6:30 pm
Baazi 9:30 pm

July 27 (SAT)
Mr. & Mrs. 55 12:30 pm
Mr. & Mrs. 55 3:30 pm
Pyaasa 6:30 pm
Pyaasa 9:30 pm

July 28 (SUN)
Baazi 12:30 pm
Baazi 3:30 pm
Kaagaz ke Phool 6:30 pm
Kaagaz ke Phool 9:30 pm

July 29 (MON)
Pyaasa 12:30 pm
Pyaasa 3:30 pm
Aar Paar 6:30 pm
Aar Paar 9:30 pm

July 30 (TUE)
Kaagaz ke Phool 12:30 pm
Kaagaz ke Phool 3:30 pm
Mr. & Mrs. 55 6:30 pm
Mr & Mrs. 55 9:30 pm

July 31 (WED)
Pyaasa 12:30 pm
Pyaasa 3:30 pm
Baazi 6:30 pm
Baazi 9:30 pm

A RETROSPECTIVE OF GURU DUTT

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joseph fiennes
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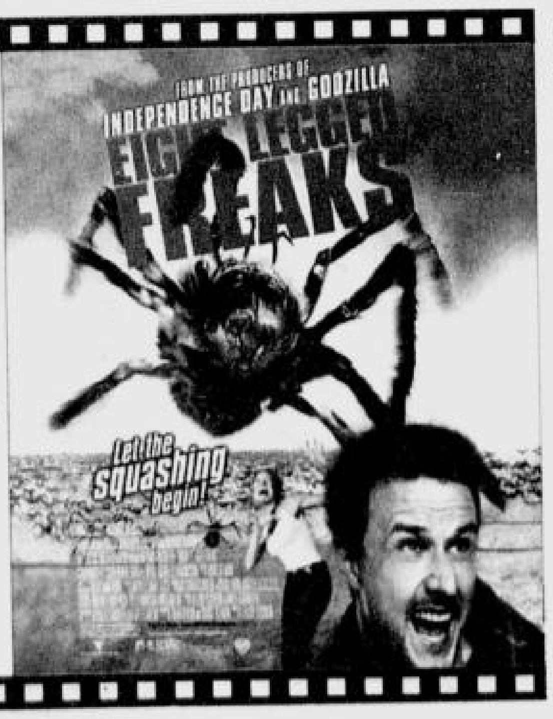

FROM THE PRODUCERS OF INDEPENDENCE DAY AND GODZILLA
EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
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July 29 & 30, 2002
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MONDAY
JULY 29, 2002

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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$1.2-B MRT project to link Bulacan, Edsa

By Doris C. Dumlao

A CONSORTIUM of big local and foreign investors led by former Finance Secretary Roberto de Ocampo has offered to undertake a $1.2-billion mass railway transit system dubbed as MRT-7 that will link Marilao in Bulacan to Edsa-Quezon Avenue through a build-operate-transfer (BOT) project with the government.

The main proponent is Manila-based development group EL International Holdings, which is part of the EL Group of Companies of Hong Kong, which has teamed up with local groups EEI Corp. of the Yuchengco family and TCGI Engineers.

Other partners are the Tyco International group of the United States, the world's largest manufacturer of electrical and electronic components, and global infrastructure giant Alstom of France, which are participating through respective units Earth Tech and Alstom Philippines.

The group has put up Universal LRT Corp. for the proposed MRT-7 project.

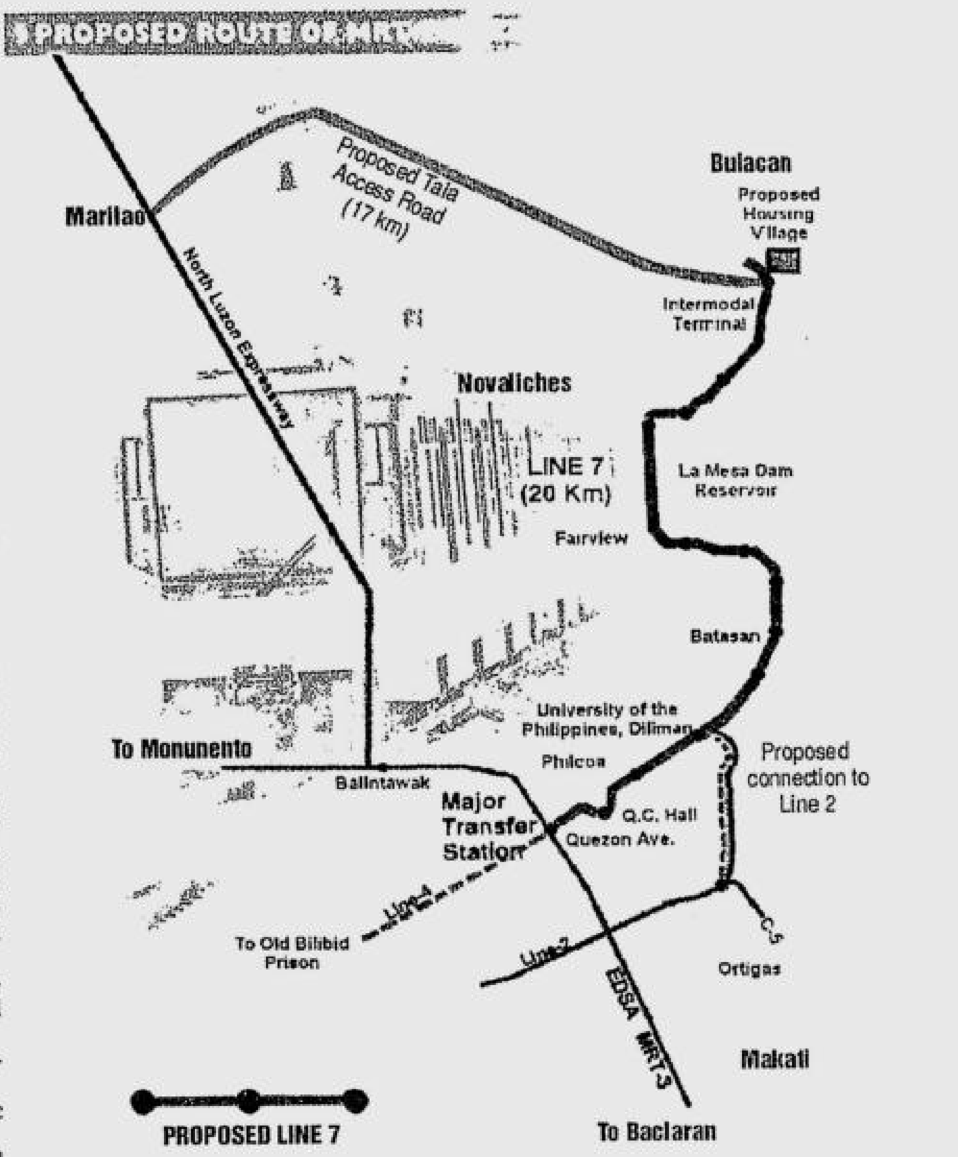
In an interview with the INQUIRER, De Ocampo, chair of Universal LRT, confirmed that the project was submitted as an unsolicited proposal to the Department of Transportation and Communication.

"This is to propagate the idea of intermodal transport system. Even if this is part of the MRT system, one of its main features will be a bus terminal facility north of Manila in Bulacan so that provincial buses will be encouraged to drop off the passengers there and they can then proceed to the MRT," De Ocampo said.

The former finance chief, who is now president of the Asian Institute of Management, said the project aims to accomplish three things:

- Make the transportation system more systematic;
- Decongest Metro Manila of heavy traffic due to less provincial buses, and
- Educate the riding public on how to deal with intermodal public transport the way it is

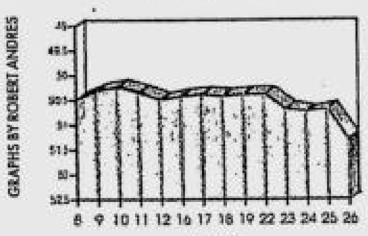
$1.2-B MRT/ B4



INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO - DOLLAR



GRAPHS BY ROBERT ANDRES

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱ 51.30 = $1
As of 5 p.m., July 26, 2002

¥ 117.37 = $1
As of 5 p.m., July 26, 2002

GOLD: **$309.30/309.80**
per ounce Hong Kong,
July 26, 2002

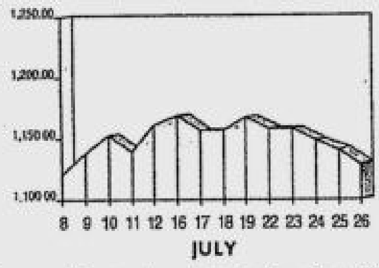
July 26, 2002

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	0.995718	1.000000	50.6820
Japan	Yen	0.008555	0.008592	0.4355
United Kingdom	Pound	1.577417	1.584200	80.2904
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.127663	0.128212	6.4980
Switzerland	Franc	0.691759	0.694734	35.2105
Canada	Dollar	0.633772	0.636497	32.2589
Singapore	Dollar	0.571825	0.574284	29.1059
Australia	Dollar	0.538227	0.540541	27.3957
Bahrain	Dinar	2.641303	2.652661	134.4422
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.265525	0.266667	13.5152
Brunei	Dollar	0.570187	0.572639	29.0225
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000111	0.000111	0.0056
Thailand	Baht	0.024245	0.024349	1.2341
UAE	Dirham	0.271121	0.272287	13.8000
Korea	Won	0.000861	0.000865	0.0438
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.004300	50.8999
Argentina	Real	0.275060	0.276243	14.0005
Brazil	Real	0.333462	0.334896	16.9732
Denmark	Kroner	0.134351	0.134929	6.8385
India	Rupee	0.020484	0.020572	1.0426
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.262066	0.263193	13.3391
Mexico	New Peso	0.101843	0.102281	5.1838
New Zealand	Dollar	0.464010	0.466005	23.6181
Norway	Kroner	0.131634	0.132200	6.7002
Pakistan	Rupee	0.016763	0.016835	0.8532
South Africa	Rand	0.097667	0.098087	4.9712
Sweden	Kroner	0.105849	0.106304	5.3877
Syria	Pound	0.019372	0.019455	0.9860
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.030028	0.030157	1.5284
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000757	0.000760	0.0385

STOCK MARKET

Stocks seen to weaken further

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B6)

LOCAL stocks are still seen to trade on the downside this week due to spillover jitters from the volatility of US stocks as well as continuing concerns on the government's ballooning budget deficit.

Eagle Equities president Joseph Roxas said the market would likely test the next technical support at 1,100 as investor sentiment remained gloomy.

Despite the positive developments in the Senate favoring the Macapagal administration, Roxas noted that trading appetite remained weak. Even the local currency has slipped to 51.30 to the dollar last week on regional weakness, he noted.

The government announced last week that its deficit in the first half had widened to P119.72 billion against its target of P78.26 billion for the period and the P130-billion cap for the full year.

"The further the market goes down, the less liquid it becomes as more

STOCKS/ B6

Gov't vows help for local shipping industry

By Abigail L. Ho

THE DEPARTMENT of Transportation and Communications has committed to take a more "activist" role in promoting the local shipping industry by coming up with policies that would make the industry more attractive to investors.

In a speech before members of the Philippine Inter-island Shipping Association (Pisa) last week, Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza said the policy reforms that the DOTC would pursue included full deregulation of the industry and the granting to local shipping lines of the same tax exemptions and fiscal incentives that foreign shipping lines currently enjoyed.

"These initiatives are intended to level the playing field for the Filipino shipowner, bring down his cost of doing business and enable him to help perk up commerce and trade with a more competitive freight structure," he said.

He added that the DOTC would also help mobilize a more sufficient and affordable capital fund for shipping investments as the lack of equity and viable credit financing facilities for ship acquisition had stunted the industry's growth.

Private sector participation will also be institutionalized in formulating maritime policies. This will give private-sector stakeholders the opportunity to air their views before the government makes decisions that will affect private sector investments.

To be able to achieve these reforms, Mendoza said he would designate an undersecretary for maritime affairs that would help "coordinate the effort of crafting the national maritime agenda."

The reforms that Mendoza committed were all in consonance with the Maritime Industry Cluster's (MIC) recommendations for the improvement of the local shipping industry.

The group suggested that the government impose reforms that would make domestic shipping more competitive.

These should include the rationalization of incentives so that the domestic shipping sector can gain access to the same incentives being enjoyed by overseas operators and domestic airline operators, proper deregulation of the industry, streamlining of government regulatory requirements, access to affordable financing, and the improvement in trading practices.

The MIC is composed of the Pisa for the domestic shipping sector, the Filipino Shipowners Association for the overseas shipping sector and the Philippine Seafarers Promotions Council for the seafaring sector.

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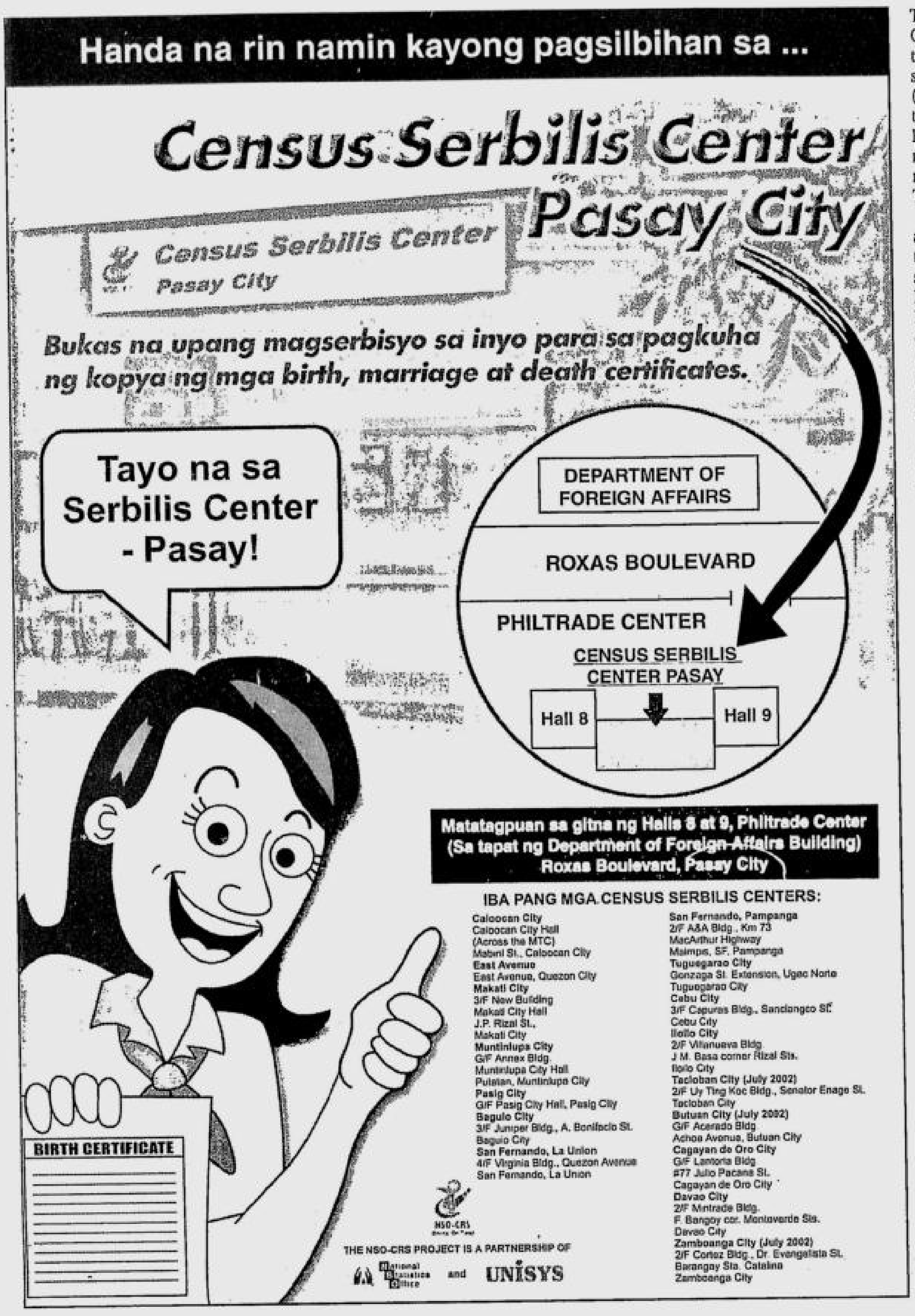
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Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City

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Mabini St., Caloocan City
East Avenue
East Avenue, Quezon City
Makati City
3/F New Building
Makati City Hall
J.P. Rizal St.,
Makati City
Muntinlupa City
G/F Annex Bldg.
Muntinlupa City Hall
Putatan, Muntinlupa City
Pasig City
G/F Pasig City Hall, Pasig City
Baguio City
3/F Juniper Bldg., A. Bonifacio St.
Baguio City
San Fernando, La Union
4/F Virginia Bldg., Quezon Avenue
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Tacloban City
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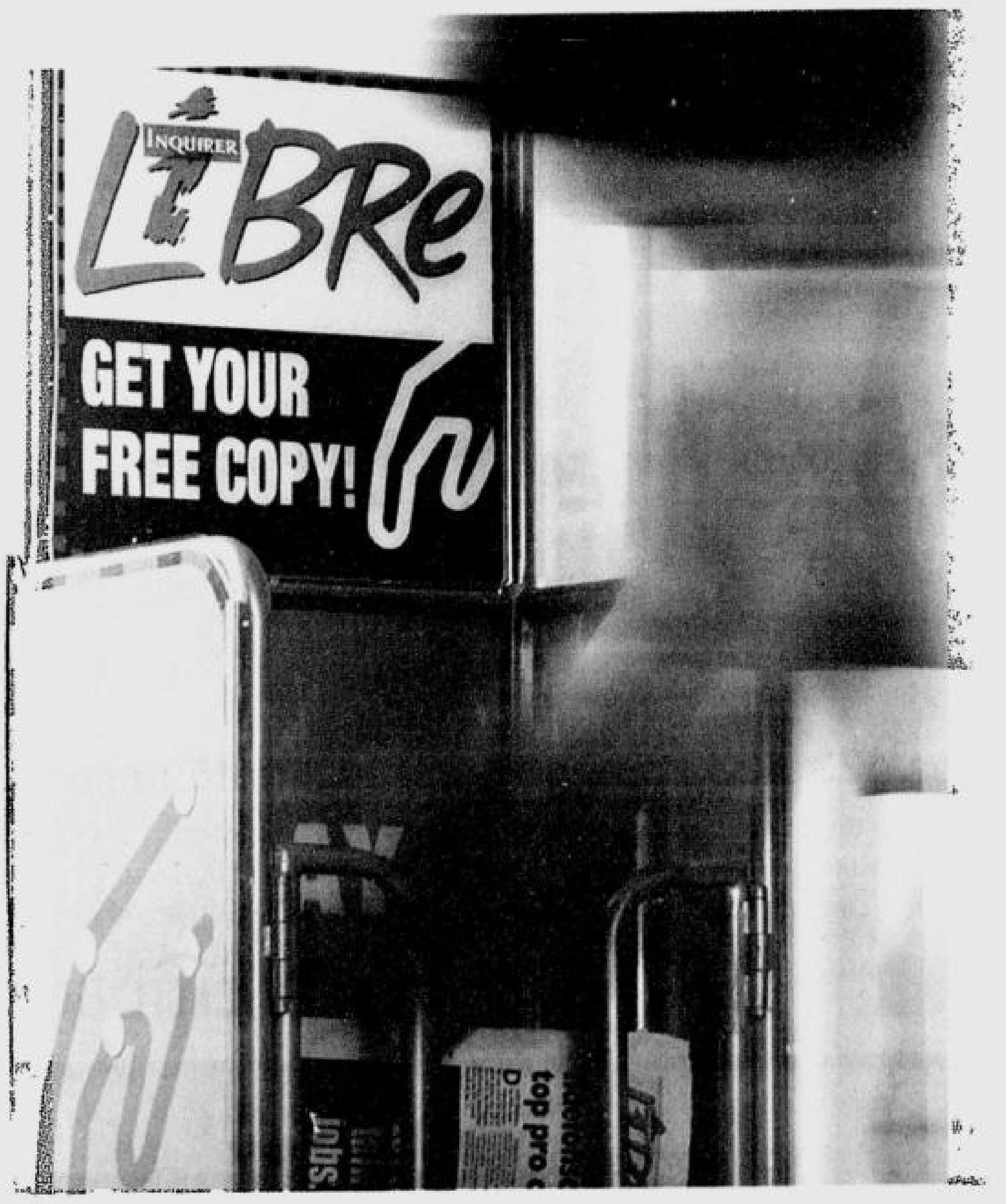
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New Mindanao

MINDANAO ONE

Joji Ilagan-Bian

TWO weeks ago, the Mindanao Business Council was at the forefront of three important events: the First Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East Asian Growth Area (BIMP-Eaga) Customs, Immigration, Quarantine and Security (CIQS); the First Mindanao Human Resource Skills Development Summit, and the launching of the Mindanao Information and Communications Technology Task Force.

While indeed these events are distinct and separate from one another, I consider them still part of a synergy that is now shaping the emergence of a new Mindanao. The last two years in Mindanao saw political and economic events that have offset and undermined the island's development. Some businesses have divested to streamline operations, others simply closed shop. Faced with this, the Mindanao Business Council (MBC), a federation of 42 chambers of commerce in Mindanao, immediately consolidated its ranks and reassessed its positioning.

With the goal of strengthening Mindanao's economy and ensuring a continuous and sustained development that can withstand shifting economic or political storms in the future, we have initiated focus group discussions and consultation-workshops with our members. We also conversed with government leaders and civil society personalities for an exchange of ideas on these.

But it was my talk with Tesda's Deputy Director General Mila Hernandez that turned out to be instructive. She astutely pointed out what she believes as a weak link in Mindanao's development efforts—its human resource.

Mindanao, despite its richness, has a low literacy level among its people. In our recent regional consultation-workshops, one of the issues that were raised was the mismatch, if not the lack of coordination, between industries and skills being developed in our schools. We also noted that we have more business graduates, instead of agriculture or industrial graduates. And like our IT graduates, they were also assessed to have a low level of competency.

This is truly a weak link considering that by 2010, we envision Mindanao's economy to be industry-led.

That is why one of the resolutions signed during the summit was to enhance the dual training system which combines two places of learning: the school-training center and the production plant of an agricultural, industrial or business establishment in Mindanao.

Added to this, the summit also urged the government to provide equitable share of the national budget for the TVET Sector in Mindanao.

Indeed, this is a long shot. But with Mindanao's strengths and opportunities as the gateway to the BIMP-Eaga, coupled with these HRSD resolutions, we may be witnessing the emergence of a New Mindanao. A New Mindanao that will not only be known for its rich cultural and natural resources, but also the well-spring of world-class talents and skilled workers who will target Mindanao as their final career destination.

JOAQUIN CUNANAN & CO. 80TH ANNIVERSARY
Jerry S. Isla (right), chair and senior partner of Joaquin Cunanan & Co., led the firm's 80th anniversary celebration with a cocktail reception for clients and friends recently at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel. With him are (from left): Philippine American Life & General Insurance Co. chair Jose Cuisia, Social Security System President Corazon de la Paz, and Internal Revenue Commissioner Rene Bañez. Joaquin Cunanan & Co. is the Philippine member firm of PricewaterhouseCoopers.

RP, China swap unfair trade practice charges

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE PHILIPPINES and China swapped complaints of unfair trade practices against each other during a recent bilateral meeting on trade and economic issues.

On one hand, the Philippines complained of China's alleged quota restrictions on the country's exports of fertilizer and sulfuric acid as it lobbied for greater access of its copper cathodes and carageenan to the Mainland.

On the other hand, China has protested against the Philippines' unfair trade practices, particularly quarantine restrictions on its vegetable exports, confiscation of China-made motorcycles and unfair treatment of its seamen.

During the Philippine-China Joint Trade Committee meeting in China last July 18, Trade Undersecretary Thomas G. Aquino raised the issue of trade barriers hoisted by China to repel imports of sulfuric acid and fertilizer.

Chinese officials, led by Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation (Moftec) vice minister An Min, explained that there were no quantitative restrictions imposed on sulfuric acid but only stringent import licensing requirements. China said that it wanted to regulate the entry of this chemical product because it was a key ingredient in the production of illicit drugs.

China said the imposition of a tariff quota for fertilizer imports was only a temporary management regulation initiative and this was consistent with China's World Trade Organization commitment.

China also turned down the Philippines' request for lower tariffs on carageenan because it has completed tariff negotiations for its WTO membership and duties have already been lowered to 12.5 percent from 30 percent previously. China suggested that the issue be raised during the ongoing multilateral discussions of the WTO.

But China's Moftec agreed to assist the Philippines to find more buyers for its copper cathodes by encouraging Chinese enterprises to tap the Philippines because of its track record as a reliable supplier of this commodity.

For its part, China hit the Philippines for imposing stringent inspection and quarantine restrictions that forced Chinese vegetable exports to undergo pest risk analysis from the Bureau of Plant Industry before they are sold in the country. China also protested the National Bureau of Investigation's confiscation of China-made motorcycles after the Philippine Motorcycle Development Program Participants Association filed a complaint on alleged intellectual property rights violation. Local motorcycle assemblers alleged that the Chinese bikes copied the design of a popular Japanese brand. It also bemoaned the unfair treatment of its seamen in the Philippines specifically on the application of guarding fees.

China urged the Philippines to hold dialogues between the two countries before Philippine authorities confiscate their goods and that a protocol on quarantine procedures be adopted to reduce bottlenecks in the release of Chinese vegetable shipments.

In response, the Philippine panel stressed that all its actions were non-discriminatory and were guided by its laws. It said that the motorcycle case was already pending in court and offered to assist Chinese businessmen in the legal procedure.

The Kapunan conundrum

SUPREME Court Justice Santiago Kapunan and his division had already handed down a favorable decision on a contested case before a Kapunan grandniece, a lawyer, appeared along with the winning counsels at the Kapunan division.

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

This was the explanation of the Quasha Ancheta Peña & Nolasco law firm about the disputed appearance of their associate, Kristine B. Tiangco, during oral arguments at the high court in June 1999. (See Cocktales, July 27, 2002, for background.)

The oral arguments were set after the losing party filed a motion for reconsideration of a 1997 Supreme Court decision, whose *ponente* happened to be Kapunan.

Kapunan had initially desisted from recusing himself after the other party asked for his inhibition on account of the sudden appearance of his grandniece, but changed his mind after the petitioner directly complained to Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr.

Despite the replacement of Kapunan, the same SC division, incidentally also chaired by Davide, dismissed the losing party's motion for reconsideration.

But the bigger, unanswered question is why Kapunan failed to disclose the fact that the same grandniece took the Bar exams in 1997 when Kapunan chaired the Bar examinations.

For a similar failure to disclose, Justice Fidel Purisima, brother of SGV chair Cesar Purisima, was censured by the Supreme Court and suffered a pension cut.

Justice Purisima was the Bar exams chief in 1998, after Kapunan, when he failed to tell his SC colleagues that one nephew was an examinee. For that inadvertence, Purisima was crucified and retired in ignominy.

Kapunan is, meanwhile, set to retire from the judiciary next month, apparently escaping the same punishment that his peers had imposed on Purisima.

The Kapunan connection

HOW the Kapunan-grandniece connection was established is by itself a piece of old-fashioned gumshoe work that involved, among others, going after the birth records of the grandniece all the way in her Visayas hometown.

The background of the parties involved in the litigation would give a clue.

The petitioner happens to be the Eternal Gardens Memorial Park, controlled by radio-publishing-insurance magnate Antonio Cabangon Chua; the respondent, Seventh Day Adventists.

The Seventh Day Adventists, who eventually won the case that involved some P300 million worth of claims, were represented by Quasha Ancheta Peña & Nolasco, the law firm of the Kapunan grandniece.

Eternal Gardens, on the other hand, had as counsels Gonzales Batiller Bilog & Associates, Donardo Paglinawan, and the Fortun and Narvasa law firm.

Narvasa, as in ex-Chief Justice and Erap counsel Andres Narvasa.

COCKTALES/ B6

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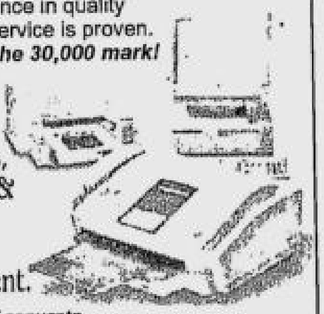

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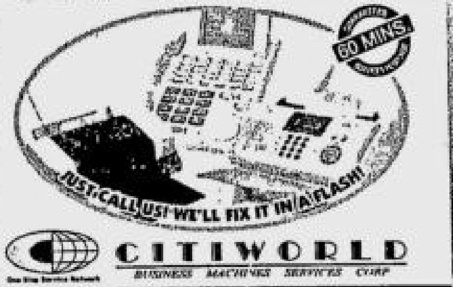

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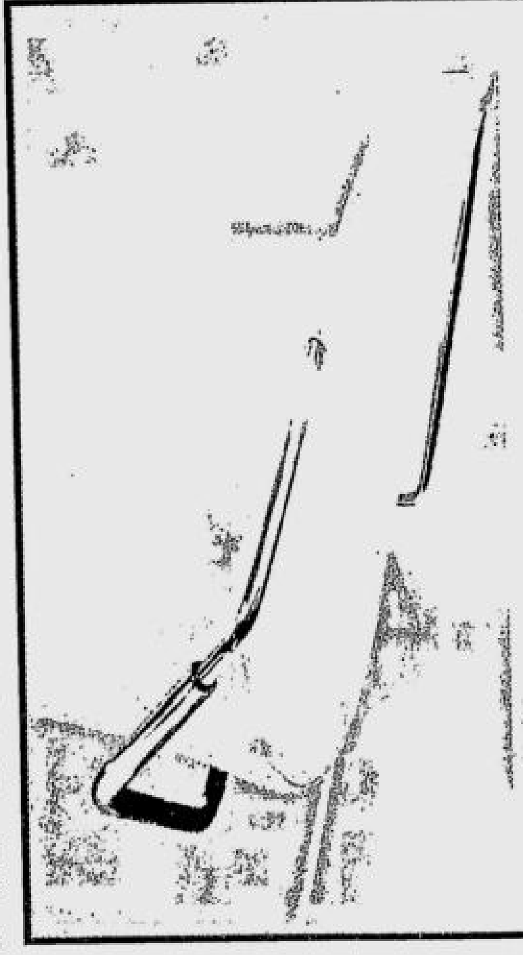

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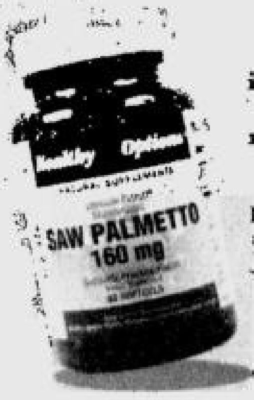

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WILL TAKE CUE FROM U.S. FED

BSP open to further rate cuts

By Clarissa S. Batino

BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura said the BSP was willing to match any cut in interest rates that the Federal Reserve of the United States would implement this year.

"If the Fed cuts rates by 25 basis points, then we can do the same," said Buenaventura, four months after the Monetary Board took a neutral stance on policy rates.

The current BSP overnight borrowing and lending rates of 7 and 9.25 percent, respectively, are the lowest in 10 years.

Buenaventura said there was a chance of further easing of interest rates in the US as economic authorities look for ways to counter the economic setbacks caused by corporate scandals.

Short-term interest rates in the US currently stands at 1.75 percent.

"My intuition is that the US will cut. And this would allow us to review our current level of interest rates given the benign inflation outlook," said the BSP chief.

The policy-making Monetary Board reduced the BSP overnight rates three times this year to help spur the growth of the domestic economy without triggering an increase in consumer prices.

Guided by the so-called inflation targeting, the monetary authorities use a medium-term inflation outlook as the basis for its policy decisions.

On the other hand, if the Federal Reserve decides to raise interest rates, Buenaventura said the BSP could delay any rate hike until the first half of 2003 because of the modest inflation rate.

So far, the inflation had averaged at 3.5 percent in the first half, the lowest in 28 months, and it is likely to remain at these levels.

"I think the inflation in July would range between 2.8 and 3.3 percent, largely on account of stable prices and also because of the huge reduction in power rates," Buenaventura said.

Economic Planning Secretary Dante Canlas earlier said the favorable inflation trend suggested that the growth in consumer prices would average between 3.2 and 3.5 percent.

The inflation target for 2003 was placed at 4.5 to 5.5 percent but Canlas said there was room to bring down the range by half-a-percentage point.

"We can bring it down to 4 to 5 percent next year but it may have implications on monetary policies," Canlas said in an earlier interview.

The economic planning chief sees no inflationary pressure coming from food and fuel prices in the coming months.

Lower power rates, Buenaventura explained, was a big factor in keeping inflation rate in check this year.

The National Power Corp. was ordered by President Macapagal-Arroyo to bring down the cost of the PPA to 40 centavos per kilowatt-hour starting May. Electric utilities like the Manila Electric Co. effectively reduced the PPA by 30 centavos per kWh.

Analysts said only the rising budget deficit could derail plans to immediately lower interest rates.

$1.2-B MRT project. . .

From page B1

dealt with in most major cities in the world.

Documents submitted to the DOTC indicated that the proposed 20-kilometer MRT will begin its route from Marilao, passing through the La Mesa Dam reservoir, Fairview, Batasan, University of the Philippines in Diliman, Philcoa and Edsa-Quezon Avenue.

"MRT-7 is a road/rail transportation solution aiming to capture the commuters from the northern suburbs and the north going to Manila and servicing the 2 million population of north Quezon City and North Caloocan," the concept paper said.

De Ocampo said that if things went smoothly, MRT-7 would be operational by 2006. He said the consortium had completed the feasibility study on the project and was now in the process of talking with the consortium partners.

The MRT-7 consortium members were likewise involved in the government-owned MRT-1 project in the early 1980s, which currently serves 350,000 passenger trips per day. They likewise participated in the Metro Railway Transit (MRT-3) along Edsa, which currently moves 300,000 passenger trips per day.

For its part, lead proponent EL Group is engaged in energy, transportation, telecommunication services, food and agro-industries and trade. It was the lead investor in the MRT-3 project and has since then retained a minority stake. Its chair Eli Levin is an Israeli citizen and currently a resident of the Philippines.

Another source privy to the project said the proposal had been presented to President Macapagal-Arroyo but had yet to obtain "first-pass" approval. The proposal has to be elevated to the Investment Coordinating Committee, which is spearheaded by the National Economic and Development Authority.

As an unsolicited proposal, the BOT proposal will be open to a Swiss challenge, which means that if and when accepted by the government, other groups can undertake the project by offering a lower cost, but the original proponent will have the right to match the bid.

Of the estimated $1.2-billion project cost, the source said 25 percent would be generated through equity while 75 percent would be covered by borrowings. Once the consortium has secured the necessary government approvals, it plans to engage an international financial house like Citibank, JP Morgan or others to structure the debt and equity leading to a financial closing, which is targeted by December next year.

The LRT system has only two operating lines, the original MRT-1 linking Monumento to Baclaran and MRT-3 along Edsa. Line 2 (under construction) is supposed to link C-5 road to Line 2 while Line 4 is supposed to link Old Bilibid Prison to Edsa-Quezon Avenue, which is identified as a major transfer station. Line 6 will link Line 1 all the way to Cavite.

The other LRT lines after Line 3 are still under discussion with the government, although some have received first pass approvals.

Public opinion surveys don't add up—Part 2

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General

TWO more public opinion surveys came out this month. Both were widely covered by the media including the INQUIRER. They shouldn't have bothered. The surveys were severely flawed.

First, there was the Executive Outlook Survey conducted by the Makati Business Club from June 24 to July 12. What attracted the media most was the finding that, of the members who took part of the survey, 53.1 percent expected high economic (gross domestic product-GDP) growth in 2002 compared with 44.8 percent in the January 2002 survey.

The headline at the Philippine Star trumpeted that Makati businessmen had given the President a passing grade.

Maybe the President deserved a passing grade. But the survey did not validate this. (Don't get me wrong. My own personal rating of the President is more than a passing grade, but that is not the story here.)

Presumably, the survey questionnaire was sent to all 800 MBC members. But only 145, or 18.1 percent, took part in the survey. Of the total membership, 665 members, or 81.2 percent, did not bother to answer back.

Shouldn't the opinion of this vast majority count more than the small minority that did take part in the survey?

The 53.1 percent that expected high economic growth totaled only 77 executives. These were the ones referred to at the opening sentence of the analysis: "Business remains optimistic about the short-term economic prospects of the economy." (The MBC should learn to avoid redundancies.) How can the opinion of 77 members be considered as the opinion of the club, much less Philippine business?

The members of a club like the MBC are of the same cloth. If you are to plumb the opinion of the club, you have to have at least a majority of the membership answering a question one way or the other. The opinion less than one out of every five members is statistically invalid in this case. In other words, as an opinion survey of the membership, the Executive Outlook Survey was one big flop.

Even more ludicrous is Pulse Asia's Survey Findings on Big Businesses' Outlook on Philippine Economic Recovery. This is Pulse Asia's "first business-panel survey called Business Pulse," conducted from May 15 to June 18. This was supposed to be a survey of the country's Top 1,000 firms.

To start, the respondents were asked to rate "general business conditions" in the second quarter of 2002. The question was so broad that the answers can never be homogeneous. Adding the answers is like adding apples and oranges.

To attain homogeneity in the answers so that they can be added up, survey questions should be exact, precise, narrow and focused. But then, Pulse Asia has always been known for sloppy work.

Anyway, on a 1-10 scale, with 1 being the "worst possible" and 10 being the "best possible," 50 percent of the respondents gave a rating of either 5 or 6, which, Pulse Asia said, "may be interpreted as neutral."

The trouble with this statistic, and the rest of the statistics in the survey, was that there were only 30, count them 30, respondents (CEOs and CFOs) in all. So, the 50 percent who gave a neutral rating totaled only 15 persons. How can 30, not to mention 15, executives be representative of Big Business? I am prepared to accept their opinions as those of experts, but not as indications of sentiments of the country's Top 1,000 firms.

When done properly, opinion surveys are quite useful. Executives often use market surveys in planning sales strategies. Politicians use surveys to track voting trends.

But surveys done wrongly are nothing but useless drivel. To protect the public, media should start learning how to spot a survey that does not add up and deserves to be fed to the nearest shredder.

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Cebu Pacific to add routes

By Abigail L. Ho

FLAG carrier Cebu Pacific Air will be bringing in a third Boeing 757 aircraft by October in preparation for its planned flights to Singapore, China and Taiwan in the fourth quarter.

In an interview last week, Cebu Pacific vice president for corporate planning and external affairs Peggy Vera said lease contract negotiations on a third aircraft were underway.

"The aircraft and its technical records are currently being inspected. If all requirements for its acquisition go as planned, the aircraft will be delivered in October," she said.

In an earlier interview, Cebu Pacific president and chief executive Lance Gokongwei said the airline was "still in the process of building a brand," and a third aircraft would help it become more recognized in the region as well as cover additional market.

Vera said Cebu Pacific had already secured a permit to fly to Singapore daily starting Oct. 1, 2002, and was also in the process of securing approvals to fly to Guangzhou in China and Taipei in Taiwan.

"We're planning to fly to China, particularly to Guangzhou and Taipei, by the end of the year. For both countries, the applications have been filed and are in process. We expect to get approvals in time for the planned service introduction," she said.

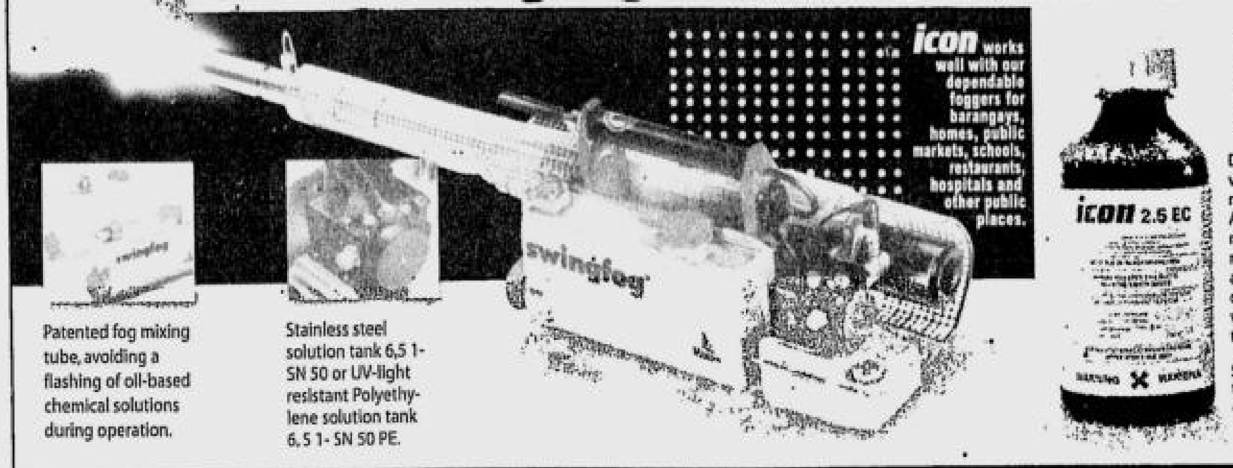
Cebu Pacific is currently flying twice daily to Hong Kong and four times weekly to Korea.

Vera said the average load factor, or the average passenger volume per flight, on the Hong Kong and Seoul routes were placed at 50 percent and 51 percent.

According to aviation economist and University of Asia and the Pacific professor Ma. Cherry Lyn Rodolfo, these load factors were both "reasonably good performance for a newcomer."

Gokongwei said the Seoul route was picking up while the Hong Kong route was steady.

"Certainly the Manila-Seoul route is viable, and we could improve viability through greater market penetration with a daily frequency, which we are, in fact, pushing for. The Manila-Hong Kong route is doing well, considering the peaks and valleys of the Hong Kong traffic," Vera said.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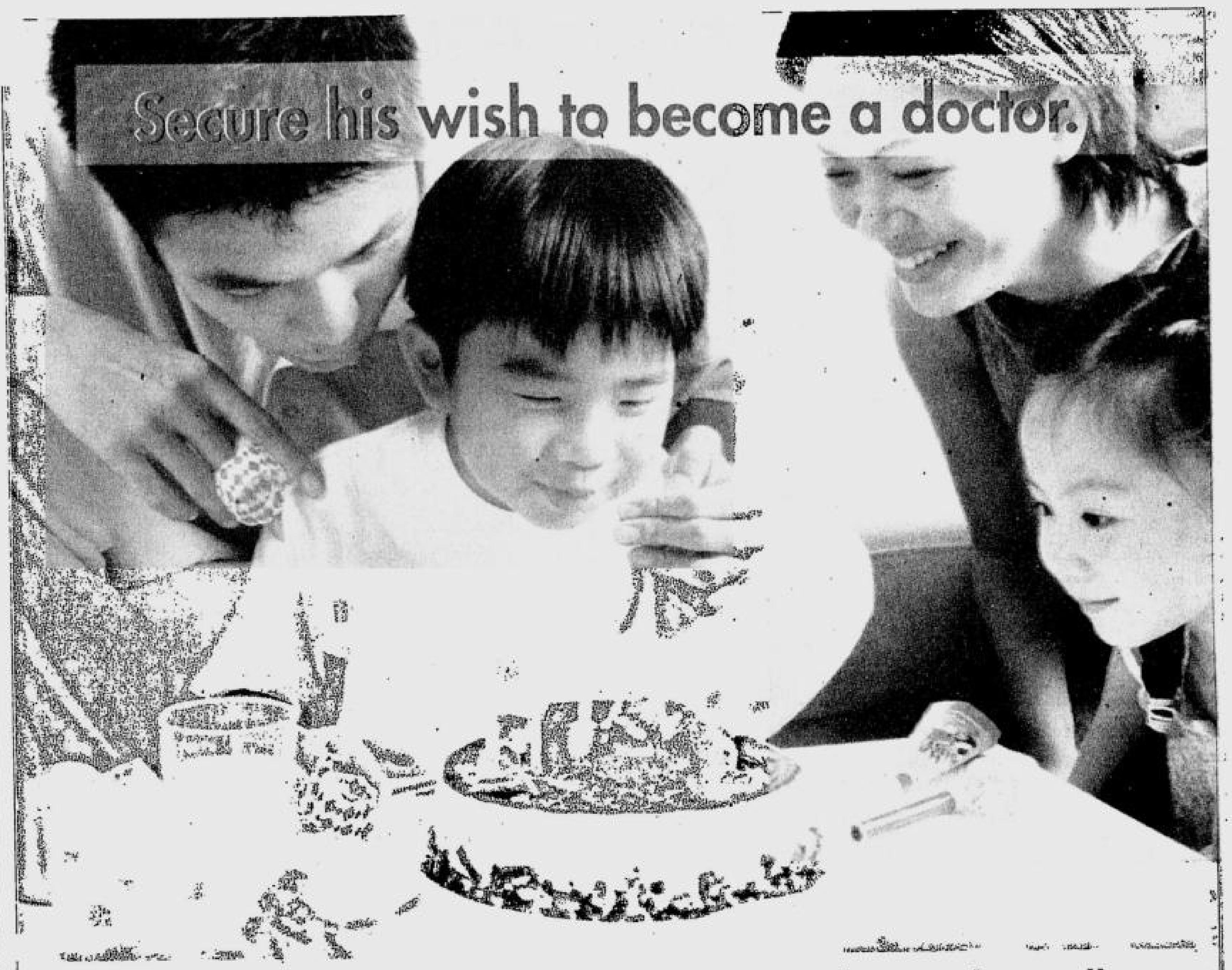
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3	3.00%	P 2,500.00	P 30,000.00
4	3.25%	P 2,708.33	P 32,500.00
5	3.50%	P 2,916.67	P 35,000.00
6	3.75%	P 3,125.00	P 37,500.00
7	4.00%	P 3,333.33	P 40,000.00
8	4.25%	P 3,541.67	P 42,500.00
9	4.50%	P 3,750.00	P 45,000.00
10	4.75%	P 3,958.33	P 47,500.00
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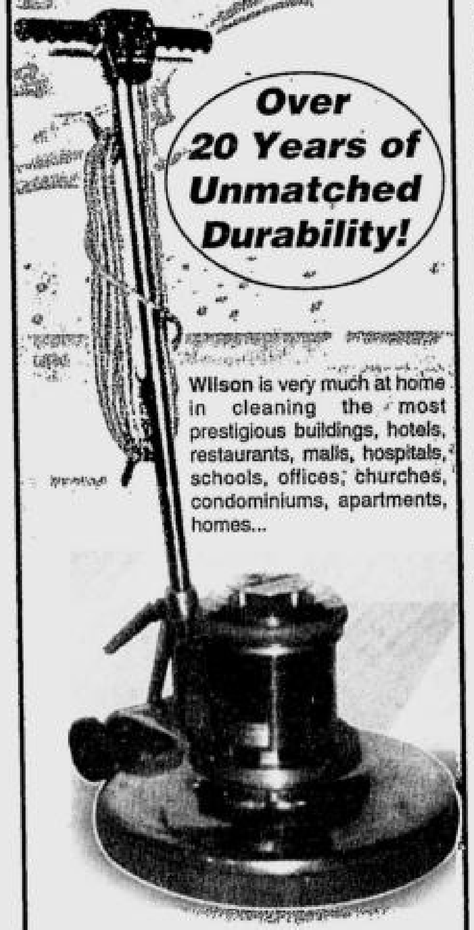
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Wall Street's roller-coaster ride

MR. BEARBULL

Ron Nathan

WITH Jaworski joining the President, the ball is now in her court. I told my wife I was going to the Sona and she went berserk. She thought I was going to the sauna. We heard a final Blas from Ople before moving to his new job as secretary of foreign affairs. I would have thought that Dolphy would be a better choice. He has had more foreign affairs than any man alive. Another opposition senator is defecting after being offered a nominal position as marriage counselor to the Pope.

In India, they have just elected a nuclear scientist as president. He held a simple lunch in the nuclear power station, a good old English dish, fission chips. They had better watch his spending on rocket research. He will probably charge it to missileaneous expenses.

The President was asked to cut her expenditure since it was way over target but she refused to budge it, and told some fishy tail, P60 a kilo, I believe.

In the past six months, I have peppered you with puns to spice up the column but now I would like to introduce you to another kind of British humor. It is a form of poetry known as a limerick. I have a vast collection plus a number I have written myself. It consists of a five-line verse, in which the first two lines rhyme, then the next two lines rhyme, and finally the last line rhymes with the first two, and often contains the punch line. Traditionally, limericks are green and the vast majority are unprintable. However, here are two, which I hope the editor will print, and if you like them, I will include some more next week. They are taken from my unpublished book of poetry "From Bad to Verse."

There was a young lady from Subic
Who was famed for her area pubic.
When asked for its size
She replied in surprise,
Do you want it in square feet or cubic?

—

There was a young man from Devizes
Whose balls were of different sizes.
The one that was small
Was no use at all
But the other won several prizes.

I am feeling rather smug at the moment. Last Friday, I sent in my article predicting hair-raising fluctuations on the DOW and the Nasdaq, and the very same night, the DOW fell 390 points. The next day it dropped 220, and then 85, before staging the largest U-turn ever seen in one day. It opened 168 points lower and ended 489 points higher, a swing of 677 points.

The Nasdaq was even more volatile, falling 4.5 percent one day and rising 6 percent the next. The latter is equivalent to the Phisix rising 67 points. This has been the most volatile week recorded since the crash of '87 and volume of 2.7 billion shares set a new record. The FDA reports that sales of DRAMAMINE for motion sickness rose 500 percent.

How did I manage to make such an extraordinary prediction so accurately? Luck? No. Charts? No. Fundamentals? No way. It was lateral thinking (I was lying down at that time). Actually it was an absolute certainty, if you look at the big picture, as I always do.

The Senate had unanimously rushed through a bill in two hours to make the penalties really punitive, as opposed to a maximum of five years in prison. The President had indicated strong measures would be taken. But the Congress and the Senate have to meet and pass a bill on which both houses can agree. This will take a little while.

So if you are a CEO and have something to hide, like inflating the value of your assets, or booking revenue that you have not received, you must come clean immediately. That way, you may get away with it, or perhaps escape with a fine. The last day for filing second quarter profits is Aug. 14 so you have to act quickly. If you wait until the third quarter, the SEC will be watching closely and the penalties will be more severe.

The very same night, IBM announced a downgrade of future profits, 6,000 to 8,000 jobs to go, and a write down of $2 billion of assets. Other companies followed suit and investors panicked, selling their mutual funds, and exiting the stock market en masse. The slide gathered momentum until a TV program showed two directors of ADELPHIA being handcuffed and taken away.

This single shot, off the cuff, reassured investors that justice would be done and confidence was restored, at least, temporarily. There was also a great number of bears running for cover. Indeed, the SEC announced there were more bears in Wall Street than in Yellowstone Park.

Is this the bottom? I don't know but it could be. A poll by CNN showed that only 34 percent thought that it was; about 52 percent considered the rally to be a dead cat bounce. It all depends on how the economy holds up in the second half and for that, we will have to wait for Alan Greenspan's next report, which is some time off.

All this frenzy affected the whole of Europe and Asia, sending indices down 5 percent a day. Of course, none of this affected us because we live in a different reality. The Phisix remained lifeless, with falls never reaching one percent, and turnover remaining at levels which are ludicrous, and do not justify the afternoon session, particularly in the typhoon season.

There is only one BUY and subscribers are aware of it. Surprisingly, only two people were interested in dealing at 0.25-percent commission. This shows how little trading the public is doing at the moment. Up to now, I have been answering all emails but I want to work on setting up a website for herbal medicine, so, in future, I will only answer them selectively. Do not send any attachments. I never open them because my wife does not like me having attachments. As always, you can reach me at *mrbearbull@hotmail.com.*

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As of July 29, 2002

CLUB	SELLER	BUYER
Alabang Country Club "A"	1,600,000	1,500,000
Baguio Country Club	-	680,000
Camp John Hay	290,000	250,000
Capitol Hills Golf & CC A/B*	115,000	Pls. Call
Canyon Woods	100,000	-
Canlubang Golf	550,000	-
Calatagan Golf Club	100,000	-
City Sports Club	830,000	Pls. Call
Club Filipino	Pls. Call	300,000
Eagleridge "A"/"C"*	340,000/550,000*	-
Eastridge	200,000	-
Evercrest	100,000	-
Fairways & Blue Waters C1	650,000	-
Fontana D/C	90,000/140,000	Pls. Call
Forest Hills "A"/C"	230,000	230,000*
Manila Golf Ind./Corp.*	Pls. Call*	11,000,000
Manila Polo	-	2,750,000
Makati Sports Club A/B	Pls. Call	-
Manila Southwoods A/B*	650,000/750,000*	700,000*
Metropolitan Club	100,000	-
Mimosa Golf Ind./C3*	140,000	265,000*
Mt. Malarayat	350,000	-
Orchard Golf	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
Phil. Columbian	65,000	-
Puerto Azul "A"/"B"	120,000/150,000*	60,000*
Punta Fuego	520,000	-
Quezon City Sports Club "A"	220,000	200,000
Riviera Golf "A"/"C"*	190,000/450,000*	280,000*
Riviera Golf "B"	250,000	-
Royale Tagaytay A/C*	90,000/Pls. Call**	-
Sherwoods "A"/"B"/"C"**	105,000/Pls. Call*	-
Sta. Elena Golf "A"	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
Subic Bay Yacht Club "Corp"	330,000	-
Subic Golf	160,000	-
Tagaytay Country Club*	-	400,000
Tagaytay Highlands Golf & CC	900,000	610,000
Tagaytay Midlands	830,000	780,000
Valley Golf & CC	-	280,000
Valle Verde (Indv.)	160,000	160,000
Wack Wack Golf	7,400,000	-

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2. ALABANG "B"	CALL NOW	------	—
3. BAGUIO CC	750,000	------	July 95
4. CALATAGAN GC "A"	90,000	------	May 93
5. CAMP JOHN HAY	300,000	250,000	—
6. CANLUBANG GC	625,000	------	Dec 90
7. CANYON WOODS	200,000	------	—
8. CAPITOL HILLS	130,000	100,000	July 91
9. CC AT TAGAYTAY	------	CALL NOW	<Pre-sell
10. CELEBRITY CLUB	CALL NOW	165,000	Nov 96
11. EAGLERIDGE "B"	500,000	------	—
12. MANILA GOLF (INDIV)	------	11,000,000	—
13. MANILA POLO CLUB	3,000,000	2,750,000	March 95
14. MLA SOUTHWOODS "A"	670,000	------	<Pre-sell
15. MLA SOUTHWOODS "B"	750,000	------	—
16. MT. MALARAYAT GCC "C"	------	450,000	—
17. ORCHARD GCC "A"	CALL NOW	——	<Pre-sell
18. PUNTA FUEGO	CALL NOW	------	—
19. RIVIERA GCC "C"	------	CALL NOW	<Pre-sell
20. STA. ELENA "A"	1,850,000	1,625,000	—
21. SUBIC BAY YACHT (CORP)	350,000	——	—
22. TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	------	750,000	—
23. THE COUNTRY CLUB	CALL NOW	------	—
24. VALLEY GOLF	------	250,000	—
25. WACK WACK GOLF	CALL NOW	6,875,000	Mar 94

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EAGLERIDGE "A"	16,000	TAGAYTAY H'LANDS	35,000
MANILA GOLF	400,000	TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	35,000
ORCHARD GCC "A"	15,000	WACK WACK GOLF	80,000

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CAPITOL HILLS	FOREST HILLS "A"	ORCHARD "A"	STA. ELENA "A"
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CLUB	BUYER	SELLER
Alabang Country Club "A" (Filipino)	1,500,000	1,550,000
Alabang Country Club "B" (Foreigner)	-	2,000,000
Baguio Country Club	-	740,000
Calatagan Golf Club "A"	-	85,000
Calatagan Golf Club "B"	-	110,000
Camp John Hay	240,000	Please Call
Canlubang	-	600,000
Canyonwoods	Please Call	200,000
Capitol Hills	-	115,000
Celebrity Sports Club	140,000	180,000
Eagle Ridge "A"/"B"/"C"	Please Call	Please Call
Eastridge "A"	-	150,000
Evercrest "A"	-	100,000
Forest Hills "A"	210,000	220,000
Forest Hills "B"	210,000	250,000
Forest Hills "C"	250,000	270,000
Makati Sports Club "A"	250,000	300,000
Makati Sports Club "B"	Please Call	-
Manila Golf (Corporate)	-	12,900,000
Manila Golf (Individual)	Please Call	12,500,000
Manila Polo	2,800,000	2,900,000
Manila Southwoods "A"	600,000	650,000
Manila Southwoods "B"	Please Call	800,000
Metropolitan Club "A"	-	120,000
Metropolitan Club "B"	-	150,000
Montemar (Individual)	30,000	40,000
Montemar (Corp)	50,000	-
Mt. Malarayat (Individual)	-	350,000
Orchard Golf Club "A"/"B"/"C"	Please Call	Please Call
Pueblo de Oro "A"/"B"/"C"	-	Please Call
Puerto Azul	-	125,000
Punta Fuego	-	Please Call
Quezon City Sports Club	200,000	220,000
Riviera Golf & Country Club "A"	-	Please Call
Rockwell	350,000	450,000
Sherwood Hills "A"	-	100,000
Sta. Elena "A"	1,600,000	1,850,000
Sta. Elena "B"	-	2,100,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Corporate)	-	280,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Individual)	-	170,000
Tagaytay Country Club	400,000	450,000
Tagaytay Highlands	820,000	875,000
Tagaytay Midlands	750,000	Please Call
The Country Club	Please Call	Please Call
Valle Verde (Corporate)	-	330,000
Valley Golf	280,000	300,000
Wack-Wack Golf Club	6,875,000	7,300,000

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Alabang "A"	25,000	Mimosa Golf	25,000
Calatagan "A"	10,000	Orchard "A"	30,000
Canlubang	60,000	Riviera "A"	15,000
Eagleridge	15,000	Sta. Elena	60,000
Eastridge "A"	20,000	Tagaytay CC	20,000
Forest Hills	30,000	Tagaytay Golf	45,000
Manila Southwoods	20,000	Tagaytay Mid.	35,000
Makati Sports "A"	25,000	Valley Golf	20,000
Manila Golf	300,000	Wack-Wack	90,000

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Canyon Woods	170,000
Capitol Hills	115,000
Celebrity	175,000
Eagle Ridge "A"/"B"/"C"	330/450/550
Forest Hill "A"/"B"/"C"	220/300/250
Manila Golf (Corp)	12,580,000
Manila Polo	2,800,000
Manila Southwoods "A"	600,000
Manila Southwoods "B"	700,000
Makati Sports "A"	260,000
Manila Southwoods A/B Intl./Mo 30% D P	14,000/ 15,000
Mimosa	135,000
Mt. Malarayat "A"/"B"/"C"	340/400/450
Punta Fuego Club	520,000
Royale Tagaytay	80,000
Sta. Elena "A"/"B"	1,625,000/ Please call
Subic Yacht (Indv.)	150,000
Tagaytay Highland Golf	850,000
Tagaytay Highland Club	420,000
Tagaytay Midlands	830,000
Wack Wack	7,000,000

BUYING	
Baguio Country Club	700,000
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2	ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "B"	1,700,000.00	Please call
3	BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	750,000.00	700,000.00
4	BUENAVISTA NATURE PARK & COUNTRY CLUB	Please call	-
5	CANLUBANG GOLF CLUB	700,000.00	Please call
6	CAMP JOHN HAY GOLF CLUB	270,000.00	-
7	CALIRAYA SPRING	-	300,000.00
8	CELEBRITY SPORTS CLUB	180,000.00	-
9	COUNTRY CLUB AT TAGAYTAY	420,000.00	
10	EASTRIDGE GOLF CLUB	200,000.00	-
11	EAGLERIDGE "B"	-	300,000.00
12	FONTANA "D"	70,000.00	-
13	FOREST HILLS "A"	-	220,000.00
14	MANILA GOLF CLUB (Corp.)*	13,000,000.00	-
15	MANILA POLO CLUB	2,800,000.00	
16	MANILA SOUTHWOODS "A"	630,000.00	
17	MANILA SOUTHWOODS "B"	740,000.00	
18	MIMOSA (Ind.)	120,000.00	
19	MT. MALARAYAT "A"	350,000.00	
20	MONTEMAR BEACH CLUB	35,000.00	
21	ORCHARD GOLF CLUB "A"	Please call	-
22	ORCHARD GOLF CLUB "B"	Please call	Please call
23	ORCHARD GOLF CLUB "C"		Please call
24	PABLO DE ORO	400,000.00	-
25	PHILIPPINE COLUMBIAN ASSOCIATION	80,000.00	
26	PUERTO AZUL BEACH CLUB "A"	100,000.00	
27	PUNTA FUEGO	650,000.00	
28	QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	220,000.00	
29	RIVIERA GOLF CLUB "A"	200,000.00	
30	RIVIERA GOLF CLUB "B"	250,000.00	
31	RIVIERA GOLF CLUB "C"	350,000.00	
32	SHERWOOD HILLS "A"	60,000.00	-
33	SHERWOOD HILLS "B"	100,000.00	Please call
34	STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB "A"	Please call	1,600,000.00
35	SPLENDIDO	1,000,000.00	Please call
36	SUBIC YACHT CLUB (IND.)	200,000.00	Please call
37	TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS GOLF CLUB	920,000.00	-
38	VALLE VERDE COUNTRY CLUB	156,000.00	-
39	VALLEY GOLF CLUB	Please call	270,000.00
40	WACK WACK GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	7,000,000.00	-
41	OTHERS	Please call	

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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Friday, July 26, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	16.75	16.75	16.25	16.25	133,500
Bank of the Phil. Islands	48.5	48.5	47.5	47.5	319,400
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	29	29	28	28	76,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	34	34.5	33.5	34	492,000
Philippine National Bank	32.5	32.5	32	32.5	41,100
Union Bank of the Phil.	18	18	18	18	47,500
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.4	0.45	0.4	0.45	60,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1240	1245	1240	1245	2,170
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	0.82	0.82	0.82	0.82	40,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	915	915	910	910	2,150
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	22.5	23	22.25	23	13,600
Globe Telecom Inc.	525	525	515	520	28,070
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.027	0.027	0.027	0.027	400,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.028	0.03	0.028	0.028	15,100,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	317.5	320	312.5	315	89,850
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.013	0.014	0.013	0.014	102,200,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	19.5	19.5	19.25	19.25	30,100
Manila Electric Co. B	27	27	25.5	25.5	930,200
Petron Corp.	1.76	1.76	1.72	1.74	3,545,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.74	1.74	1.74	1.74	1,530,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	3,110,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.46	2.46	2.4	2.42	3,607,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	2.75	3	2.75	3	45,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	50,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	700,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Jollibee Foods Corp.	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	268,800
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	32	32	30.5	30.5	89,200
San Miguel Corp. A	46.5	46.5	45.5	46.5	180,300
San Miguel Corp. B	52	53.5	51.5	53.5	56,100
Vitarich Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	90,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	5.2	5.2	5.1	5.2	2,095,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.4	2.4	2.38	2.4	4,975,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	260,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	7,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.48	2.48	2.4	2.4	40,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.33	0.33	0.31	0.32	1,780,000
A Brown Company Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	50,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	100,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.055	0.06	0.055	0.06	700,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	500,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	4,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.28	1.4	1.28	1.4	9,000
First Phil Hldgs. Corp.	13	13	12.25	12.75	1,992,800
Global Equities Inc.	0.09	0.0925	0.09	0.0925	1,100,000
Ionics Inc.	5.8	5.8	5.6	5.6	13,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.48	1.5	1.48	1.5	115,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.67	0.68	0.67	0.67	1,150,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	100,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	230,000
Music Corp.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	1,320,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.31	0.32	0.31	0.32	700,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.065	1,000,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Jardine Davies Inc.	25	25	25	25	100
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	10,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.29	0.29	0.28	0.28	700,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.47	0.47	0.47	0.47	450,000
Manila Jockey Club	10	10	10	10	15,000
Mondragon Intl Phils. Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	100,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	22.5	22.5	22	22	142,000
Jollibee Warrants	12	12	12	12	4,800
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Q	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series R	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.25	10.25	10	10	2,000
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10	10	10	10	2,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10	10	10	10	4,200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	10,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6	6	5.8	5.9	11,321,000
Cityland Development Corp.	2.02	2.02	2.02	2.02	100,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.165	500,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	3,700,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.22	2.22	2.08	2.08	4,240,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	1.88	1.88	1.76	1.88	250,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	400,000
SM Development Corp.	0.78	0.78	0.78	0.78	330,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.7	5.7	5.6	5.6	4,480,000
Universal Rightfield Prop.	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	100,000
MINING					
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. A	0.19	0.19	0.185	0.185	270,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.195	0.195	0.195	0.195	220,000
Polar Mines & Dev't. Corp.	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	500,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	370,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	5,000,000
Interport Res.	0.0032	0.0032	0.0028	0.0028	17,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.0032	0.0032	0.003	0.003	7,000,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.45	0.5	0.45	0.5	250,000

Stocks seen to weaken

From page B1

investors are stuck," Roxas said. "And any technical rebound is taken as an opportunity to sell out," he said.

The main-share Philippine Stock Exchange composite index lost another 3.27 percent last week to close at 1,129.42 on Friday.

The President's State of the Nation Address last week was likewise not enough to excite the market.

"There's nothing there that the market doesn't already know," said Ed Bancod, head of research of foreign brokerage BNP Paribas Peregrine. "Something else is affecting the stock market and it's the global market."

"The market is forward-looking. Since the Sona merely discussed the accomplishments, I think the market is less interested in the past than on plans on what to do in the future," Bancod said.

Investment portal Philstocks.net agreed that the crisis in the United States proved to be the wet blanket for local equities, distracting investors from the positive developments in the Senate and the Sona promises.

It noted that the Dow Jones Industrial Average fell precipitously for the ninth straight week due to a string of corporate scandals, revelations of shoddy bookkeeping methods and gloomy earnings outlooks.

Not even the positive corporate reports released last week were enough to perk up the market. For instance, Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co. posted a 50-percent rise in first-half earnings from a year ago while SM Prime Holdings maintained a 10-percent growth for the first half.

"The market's risk-reward ratio has improved dramatically over the past weeks. We've just had relentless foreign selling and that selling pressure has tapered off. Since then, technical factors have triggered two weeks of positive performances prior to last week's correction," Philstocks.net said.

"Despite these initial indications, it is still hard to call a bottom. In fact, we are close to a critical support level at 1,120. A drop below this critical support may trigger more selling going forward. So it's still uncertain whether we have already achieved a bear market low or simply an intermediate-term low within an ongoing bear market. There is not enough positive news out there that's going to push the market up on a sustainable basis," it said. **Doris Dumlao**

Cocktales

From page B3

Lobby time

• THE EXECUTIVE director of the Makati Business Club, Guillermo Luz, clarified that it is only MBC chair Ricardo Romulo, and not the club, who is lobbying for the appointment of Bulletin counsel Adolf Azcuna to the Supreme Court.

• TRADE Secretary Manuel Roxas II, Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho, DILG Secretary Jose Lina Jr., Presidential Adviser Jose Ma. Rufino, Nica Director General Cesar Garcia Jr., Bro. Eddie Villanueva, and FFCCCI president John Ng are all rooting for the appointment of Justice Undersecretary Jose Calida as the next Ombudsman.

Calida's boss, Justice Secretary Hernando Perez, however, is quietly supporting Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño's bid for the same position.

Heard through the grapevine

THE REPORTED Salim-Cojuangco meeting never took place since, if you believe the Hong Kong grapevine, there was never one set in the first place.

It was apparently a Filipino broker who had been asking, in behalf of PLDT chair Antonio Cojuangco Jr., for a meeting with PLDT majority owner Anthoni Salim.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

DISCLOSURES

PHILIPPINE Racing Club Inc. declared a 17-percent stock dividend in favor of stockholders of record as of Aug. 5. Elected directors of the company were Santiago Cua, Tham Ka Hon, Exequiel Robles, Solomon Cua, Santiago Cua, Lawrence Lim Swee Lin, Brigido Dulay, Liberato Robles, Lim Teong Leong, Dato Surin Upatkoon and Joseph Dy.

* * *

ELECTED directors of **Keppel Philippines Properties Inc.** were Kevin Wong Kingcheung, Ang Wee Gee, Henry Sy Sr., Ramon Abejuela, Augusto Go, Yeo Kah Tiang, Choo Chin Teck, Hoe Eng Hock and Charles Yap Giok Twee.

* * *

LIBERTY Telecoms Holdings Inc. denied having any information that could explain the unusual movement in the trading of its shares.

* * *

SALCON Power Corp. bought 40,000 of its own shares at P1.74 per share.

* * *

BALABAC Resources & Holdings Co. Inc. denied having any information that could explain the drop in the price of its shares.

* * *

SPI Technologies Inc. increased its authorized capital stock from P315 million to P500 million. And the company declared a 22.66-percent stock dividend in favor of stockholders of record as of Aug. 16.

* * *

CHINATRUST Commercial Bank Corp. clarified that it had received a number of bancassurance arrangement proposals from insurance companies but discussions have not yet reached a conclusive stage.

* * *

GRAND Plaza Hotel Corp. decreased its authorized capital stock from P1.27 billion to P1.15 billion divided into 115 million shares at P10 per share.

Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research

Consolidation in call center business seen

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE CONTACT Federation of the Philippines (CFP) said that the call center business was headed for a healthy consolidation in the next two to three years with only a few, quality players left standing to maintain the country's status as the preferred outsource site for customer care and backroom operations.

In an interview, CFP president Jan Bengzon admitted that call centers have become a bandwagon similar to the *lechon manok* craze a decade ago with too many players coming with too little value to provide potential customers.

"Call centers might go the way of *lechon manok* and undergo a fallout but it does not necessarily mean it would die. The *lechon manok* is thriving with at least two players dominating the market with their good quality and service. The call center business will not die and will flourish with only the quality providers in the running," Bengzon said.

In a message sent by e-mail to the INQUIRER, CFP chair Bong Borja said the call center business has to undergo what other industries go through in their life cycle—some succeed and some fail. He said the semiconductor industry in the country went through these phases and yet the industry itself is alive and thriving and is a pillar of the country's export revenues.

The CFP was reacting to a gloomy prediction by Information Technology Association of the Philippines (Itap) director and Oracle Philippines Corp. managing director Bernard Yu (See INQUIRER, July 22, 2002) that call centers would go the way of the *lechon manok* as most of the current operators now would close shop in the next two to three years.

Bengzon said the CFP has pushed for a development strategy that would ensure that the Philippines would provide the best quality among call center operators worldwide. "We realize that we cannot compete with India or China in terms of costs in call centers because of their huge population. We can only beat them by ensuring that we maintain our high-quality and high-value services," Bengzon said.

Most people think call centers are the same as the telephone operators in the old days working on a myriad of lines on switchboards. Bengzon said what they fail to realize is that technology has advanced so much that the mere telephone operator has become a one-stop shop customer relations officer that could make decisions regarding client concerns on the spot:

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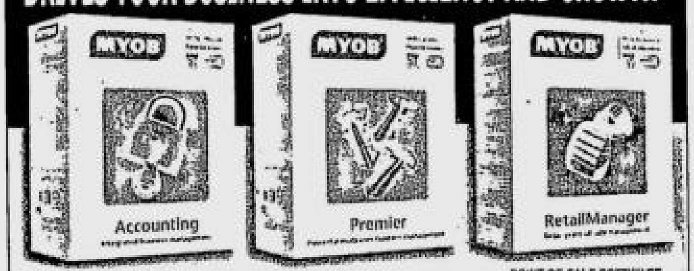

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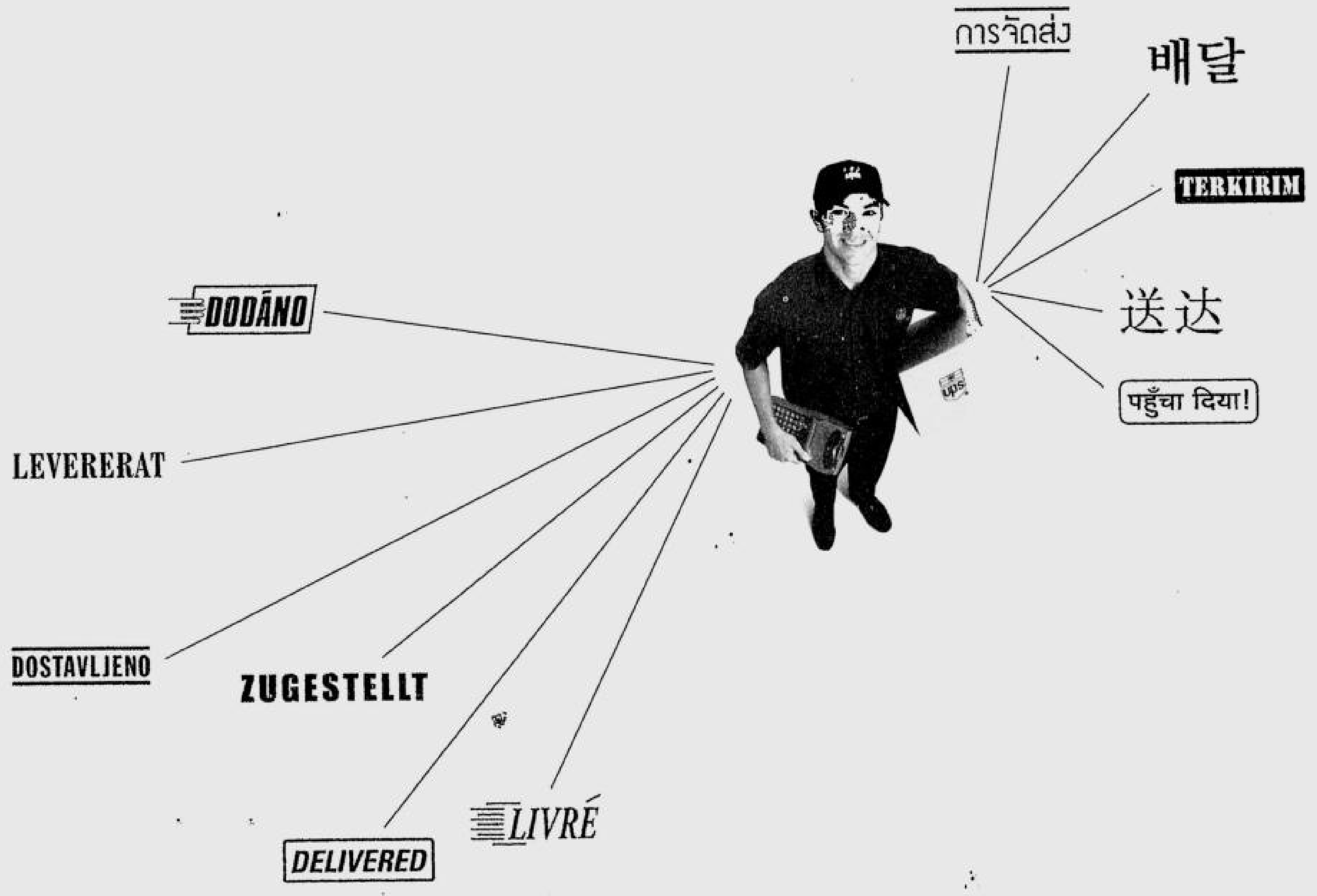

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Industries press creation of Dep't of Industry

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

DISSATISFIED over a bias among economic managers in favor of consumer interests, industry players are urging the government to put more attention on the manufacturing sector's concerns by creating a cleavage in the Department of Industry and resurrecting the Marcos-era Ministry of Industry.

Federation of Philippine Industries director Henry Leung suggested the creation of a Department of Industry that would champion the industry's position in negotiations for trade liberalization and advocate the adoption of a strong industrial development policy, like the "Buy Philippine Goods" campaign.

Leung, president of debt-laden Petrochemical Corp. of Asia-Pacific, said the new agency should work for the deferment of unequal trade treaties that would affect the viability of local manufacturers and get the private sector more involved in trade negotiations with other countries.

The government used to have a separate agency for industry and commerce during the Marcos administration, which laid the groundwork for the development of key industrial sectors in the country, like copper and fertilizer. The two agencies were merged in the mid-1980s.

Former FPI chair Raul Concepcion agreed that there was a need for the government to give more attention to the industry sector and a more staunch ally than the Department of Trade and Industry, which had to balance the concerns of both industry and consumers in formulating government policy.

Concepcion suggested that the government put up a more powerful and focused division in the DTI that would focus mainly on industrial development.

This clamor was kicked off by a speech made by Chemphil group chief executive and Petrocorp chair Antonio Garcia, who blamed the government bureaucrats' embrace of globalization and their failure to address problems of corruption, high power and labor costs, lack of infrastructure and smuggling for pushing the industrial sector, which was supposed to be the main engine of growth, on the verge of collapse.

"The DTI and other government agencies should focus on addressing industry's problems before traveling to more ministers meetings and signing more agreements that will effectively kill whatever industries are left," Garcia said. "The DTI and Neda (National Economic and Development Authority) should spend more time worrying about job creation and protection in this country rather than promoting job security of workers in other countries."

He said thousands of people had been rendered jobless with the closure of companies in steel, textile, rubber, chemicals, petrochemicals, wood, cement, tiles, and soon in the automotive sector.

Garcia twitted the DTI and Neda for citing consumer benefits in the form of cheaper goods in their defense of trade liberalization.

"Except for making luxury goods readily available for those who can afford them, the government is hard put to demonstrate that globalization has been good for the economy. Since globalization started, the country and most of its citizens have become poorer. The consumer is king only if he has spending power," Garcia said.

Garcia said the government should act like a partner of industries because it would gain the most from the success of manufacturing companies. "The government collects all sort of indirect taxes and at the end of the day collects 32 percent of our income in cash."

Monetary Board lists 'unsafe' bank practices

By Clarissa S. Batino

ENGAGING in speculative investments and paying excessive cash dividends are only two of several practices listed as "unsafe" and "unsound" by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas in a circular to be released this week.

The policy-making Monetary Board of the BSP has approved the issuance of a new circular listing financial practices considered as "unsafe" and "unsound" that lenders should avoid to minimize potential risks and bank failures.

Apart from refraining from engaging in "speculative and hazardous investments" and from paying excessive cash dividends, monetary authorities also zeroed in on so-called off-book transactions or deals not reflected in a bank's balance sheet.

In its circular, the central bank is ordering banks to stop the practice of entering into side-agreements with clients in the form of a loan participation, an example of one of the creative accounting that a bank employs to avoid putting in reserves and paying documentary stamp taxes.

Banks are prohibited from selling a loan participation without reflecting any side arrangements in their books or without fully disclosing the implications of such a transaction to the investor, BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said.

The central bank also listed as an unsafe practice a bank's failure to control and document the level of its contingent liabilities arising from selling a loan participation.

Sources say when banks sell to an investor a loan participation, for instance, in a long-term commercial paper, the transaction is usually accompanied by an agreement that the lender will buy back the investment from a client after a certain period. In the bank's books, however, the transaction is reflected as an outright sale.

While a buyback arrangement itself is not prohibited, it becomes illegal when such a transaction is not disclosed and not reflected in the bank's books.

PHOTO shows Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza (second, from right) presenting to Smart president Napoleon Nazareno the certificate of public convenience and necessity. With them are Undersecretary for Communications Agustin R. Bengzon and NTC Commissioner Eliseo M. Rio

NHMFC seen selling bad loans at 40% of value

By Elena R. Torrijos

FOREIGN investors are willing to acquire P12.55 billion worth of highly delinquent government housing loans for a minimum 40 percent of the amount of these portfolios, according to National Home Mortgage and Finance Corp. financial adviser Punongbayan & Araullo.

In an interview, Punongbayan & Araullo principal Antonio Herbosa said the minimum expected bid price of 40 percent "could go way up," subject to collateral valuation of the housing loans.

This compares favorably with the 20- to 30-percent price that some foreign groups have offered to acquire the bad loan portfolios of some of the country's largest banks.

The NHMFC earlier this year tapped Punongbayan & Araullo, an affiliate of US accounting giant Ernst & Young, to package the sale of P40 billion worth of 177,500 residential mortgages funded by government-owned and -controlled corporations, namely the Social Security System, Government Service Insurance System and Home Development Mutual Fund.

Punongbayan & Araullo recently completed its due diligence of the portfolio and found that 55,000 of the loans amounting to P12.55 billion in terms of outstanding principal balance were highly delinquent.

These loans have had no payment since take-out, have not had any payments for at least five years or had total payments amounting to less than P30,000.

PSE considers reviving minimum public float rule to improve liquidity

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange is considering reviving the minimum public float requirement on publicly listed companies to improve liquidity in the open market.

In a news conference, PSE president Ernest Leung and PSE head of disclosure department Trisha Zamesa said the local bourse was looking into ways to address concerns from the Securities and Exchange Commission that listed companies should have a bigger public float.

Leung said the stock exchange was reviewing its rules on the listing of new shares and the minimum public float. He said, however, that under current business conditions, it might be difficult to force companies to broaden their public float.

The PSE had a rule requiring listed companies to maintain a minimum public float of between 10 and 30 percent depending on the size of market capitalization.

The rule was suspended in 1998, when stocks crumbled because of a crippling Asia-wide currency crisis. At the time, several com

PSE/ B9

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The two-day conference will have an exciting blend of plenary discussions and tracks delivered by consultants, foreign speakers and the biggest names in the consumer retailing industry.

A new concept in exhibits, the *"Market Place"* will feature sponsors and exhibitors in a unique café-style environment allowing participants to have one-on-one discussions and expand product awareness through product sampling and demonstrations.

Winning Your Consumers

P&G CMC Del Monte KRAFT Johnson & Johnson Nestlé Unilever

conference program

DAY 1 August 28, 2002 (Wednesday)

7:30-8:30 am	Registration
8:30-8.45 am	National Anthem Opening AVP Welcome Remarks *(Conference Chairperson; Marie Franco of Johnson & Johnson)*
8:45-9:00 am	Opening Remarks *(Co-chairs of ECR Philippines: Jess Dinglasan of JDH Philippines and Howard Belton of Unilever)*
9:00-9:45 am	Keynote Speech: Winning Consumers on a Global Perspective *(Antony Burgmans, CEO of Unilever N.V. and Chairman of the Global Commerce Initiative)*
9:45-10:30 am	The Philippine Retail Industry in the Midst of Global Changes *(Gladys de Veyra, Executive Director for Retail Measurement Services of AC Nielsen)*
10:30-10:50 am	Break
10:50-10:55 am	AVP on the Consumer: "Give Me What I Want!"
10:55-11:40 am	Understanding Consumers as Shoppers *(Mano Lee, Operations Director of Taylor, Nelson, Sofres)*
11:40-12:20 pm	Winning the Shopper in My Store *(Manuel Alberto, VP for Operations and Catherine Y. Tiniloco, VP for Merchandising of Shopwise)*
12:20-1:30 pm	Lunch
1:30-1:35 pm	AVP on the Consumer: "I Found What I Needed!"
1:35-2:15 pm	State of the Industry on Product Availability *(Ed Roa, Managing Director of AC Nielsen)*
2:15-3:00 pm	Efficient Unit Loads: A Business Case *(Abner Villahermoso, AVP and Packaging Technology Manager for San Miguel Packaging Products)*
3:00-3:20 pm	Break
3:20-4:20 pm	Tracks 1: Category Management & Solution Centers *(Joan Lim, Business Development Manager of Watermart and Carl Cruz, General Customer Development Manager for National Accounts of Unilever)* 2: Corporate vs. Category Refillers: A Case Study 3: Efficiency in Supply Chain Through Efficient Unit Load Application *(Marissa Montoroso, Distribution Team Manager of Proctor & Gamble)*
4:20-5:20 pm	Tracks 4: Modular Shelf Replenishment *(Gloria Cudala, AVP for Operations of Super Value, Inc and Samuel Sih, Area Sales Director for Nissin Monde)* 5: EUL and Slip Sheets on Cross Border Trading *(Ma. Lourdes Santos, Supply Chain Director of Johnson & Johnson)* 6: Trade Returns – Current Practices and Future Trends *(Arw Cudala, AVP for Operations Retail Support for Super Value, Inc. and Dina Pilapil, Operations Director of JDH Philippines)*
6:00-7:30 pm	Cocktails *(Consultations with Speakers, Raffle, Product Sampling)*

DAY 2 August 29, 2002 (Thursday)

8:00-8:10 am	Recap of Day 1 *(Co-chair of the ECR Phils. Executive Committee; Rudi Oveda, Modern Trade Team Leader of Procter & Gamble)*
8:10-8:15 am	AVP on the Retailer: "It's A Game of Speed & Efficiency!"
8:15-9:00 am	Trends in Trade Partner Communication *(Joel Monasterial, Technical Director of E-Comm)*
9:00-9:45 am	Electronic Peso System: A Funds Settlement Alternative *(Frankie Yap, President of Philippine Clearing House Corp.)*
9:45-10:00 am	Break
10:00-11:00 am	ECR Works for Us!
11:00-12:30 pm	CEO Panel Discussion
12:30-2:00 pm	Lunch
2:00-3:00 pm	Tracks 7: Statement Based-Billing System - An Innovative Way of Collection *(Rana de Guzman, Customer Development IT, Administration & Demand Planning Manager of Unilever)* 8: Going-to-Market Electronically *(David Edwards, Managing Partner of Logistics Bureau)*
4:00-4:20 pm	Break
4:20-5:20 pm	Surviving in the Midst of Globalization *(Taylor Nelson, Sofres)*
5:20-5:45 pm	Closing Remarks *(Jess Dinglasan & Howard Belton, Co-chairs of ECRP)*

Conference Fee:

▶ P8,000 Discounted rate for ECRP Members ▶ P7,000

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1.			
2.			
3.			

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PSE considers reviving minimum public float rule to improve liquidity

From page B8

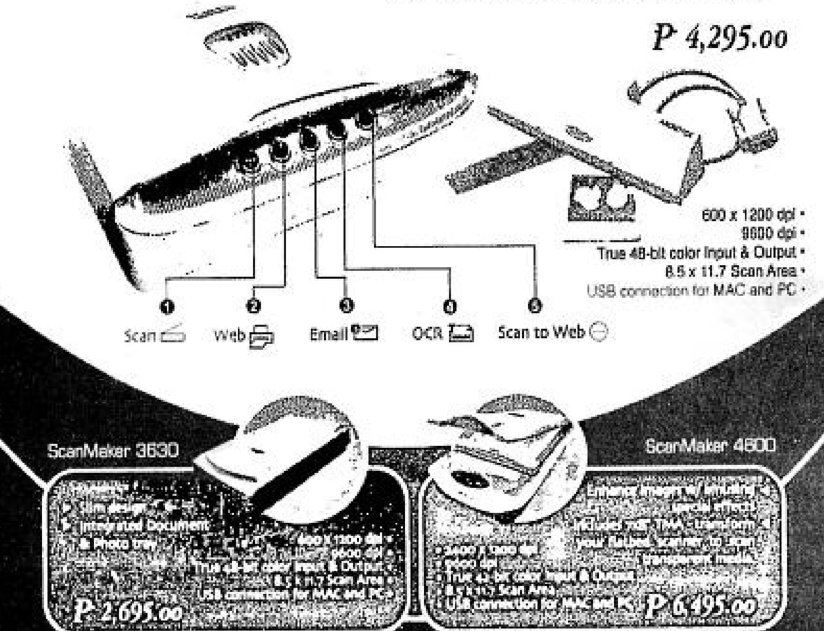
panies wanted to buy back their own shares that were being dumped by panicky foreign investors.

Zamesa said with the SEC's pending request, the stock exchange was considering lifting the suspension on the minimum public float rule.

When companies apply for the listing of additional shares, they are subjected to rules on additional listing. If companies are found out to have minimum public liquidity, they are given a one-year grace period to divest more shares to the open market.

To date, there are a number of listed companies whose shares are hardly traded in the open market because of the minimum public float. There are also listed companies that have never conducted an initial public offering due to lax listing regulations in the past.

Doris C. Dumlao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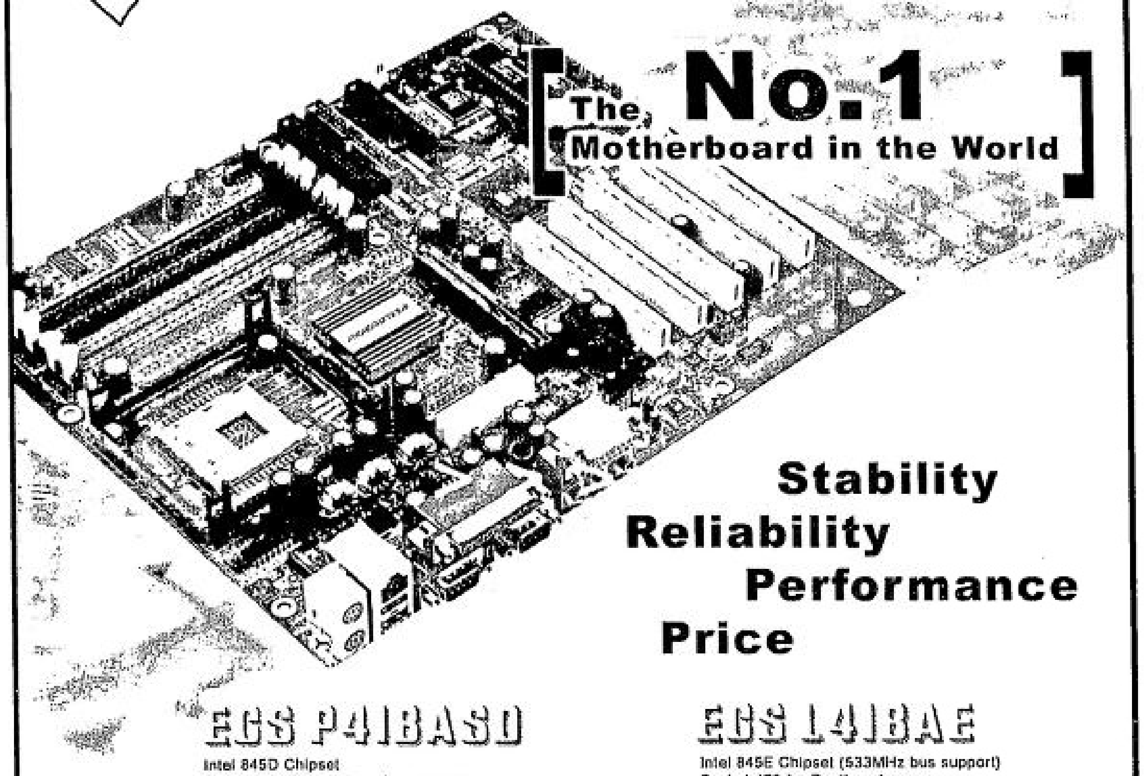
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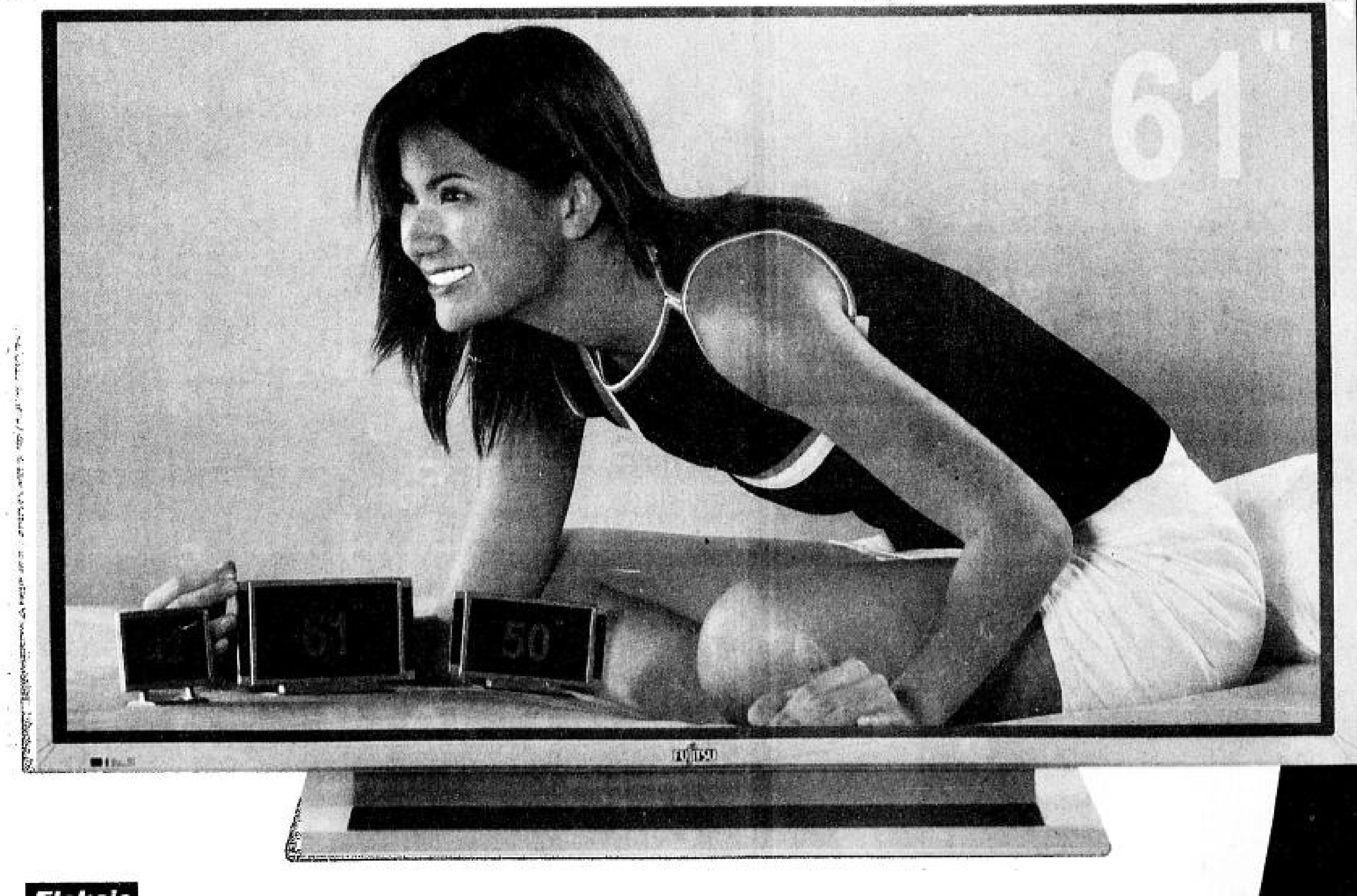
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Panel Colour : Silver
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50 INCH PDS 5003
Size : 50 inch
No. of Pixels : 1366(H) by 768(V)
RGB Res : Up to 1600(H) dots by 1200(V) lines at UXGA 85 Hz compressed mode
Luminance : 500 cd/m²
Contrast : 3,000:1
Panel Colour : Silver
Audio Output : 8Wrms x 2

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Size : 42 inch
No. of Pixels : 1024(H) by 1024(V)
RGB Res : 1024(H) dots by 768(V) lines at XGA 75 Hz & Up to 1600(H) dots by 1200(V) lines at UXGA 60 Hz compressed mode
Luminance : 750 cd/m²
Contrast : 700:1
Panel Colour : Silver
Audio Output : 9Wrms x 2

42 INCH PDS 4234 / PDS 4233
Size : 42 inch
No. of Pixels : 852(H) by 480(V)
RGB Res : 800(H) dots by 600(V) lines at SVGA 85 Hz & Up to 1280(H) dots by 1024(V) lines at SXGA 75 Hz compressed mode
Luminance : 700 cd/m²
Contrast : 1,500:1
Panel Colour : Silver
Audio Output : 9Wrms x 2

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People, Events & Products

Aries Espinosa, Editor

aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Globequest: State-of-the-art Network Solution

LEADING full service telecommunications provider Globe Telecom has integrated its data and Internet services to provide a one-stop, state-of-the-art network solution that will equip its customers with the necessary tools to take control of their businesses.

Dubbed as GlobeQuest, the new brand personifies the Globe network group as it embraces a promise of the company's relentless pursuit for new ideas that will benefit its subscribers.

"GlobeQuest expresses the intent of all our business groups—an intent to discover the best solutions with rigor and perseverance. It reflects in the technological solutions each group provides. Our objective is to place GlobeQuest in the environment to make a statement—we will change your world," said Gil B. Genio, Globe SVP and COO.

Genio noted that as technology rapidly changes, GlobeNet and GlobeData, the two brands under the Wireline Data Group of Globe, are often required to bundle their services to come up with an integrated winning solution for their respective customers.

As a result, he said, distinguishing the two has become difficult and so is communicating their services and benefits to the target market.

"The need to rationalize the brands and rework their communication programs becomes apparent, as we see the importance of leveraging on both brands' capabilities and have a more effective and coherent way of communicating it," he explained.

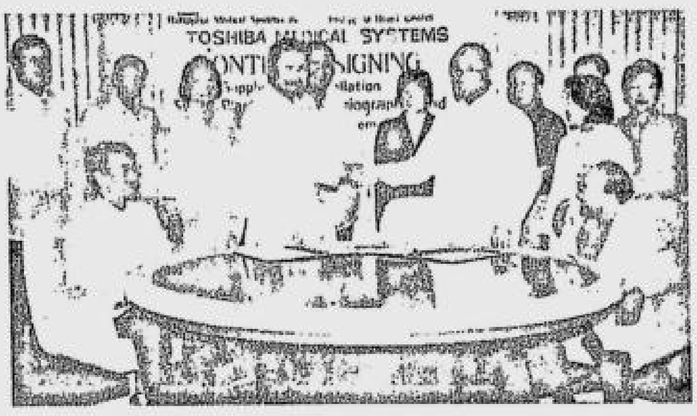
GlobeQuest will also integrate Globe's new capabilities and offerings such as its IDC, C2C submarine cable system and Corporate Voice solutions such as conferencing and Voice VPNs.

GlobeQuest, Genio said, allows the company to ride the crest of sweeping technology that brings change, foresight, speed and control.

"The Globe wireline data proposition is to create relevant solutions for business customers based on ubiquitous, value-priced, high-speed data services over a nationwide broadband network. We want to be more efficient, more productive, more focused, more creative. We want to be the first to know, the first to arrive at the future, and the ones to change it," he said.

GlobeNet is a full-service ISP for business applications supporting the growing requirement of business for information technology and network solutions. High-availability servers, routers and multiple high-speed international fiber optic and satellite plus diverse Network Operating Centers are used to guarantee businesses competitive advantage via the Internet.

GlobeData is a comprehensive suite of domestic and international data services for corporate networks utilizing leased lines, frame relay, ATM, IP, xDSL, and VSAT technologies over a scalable and highly reliable broadband network delivering highly reliable networks, customized network solutions, faster service delivery, widest points of presence, 24 x 7 after-sales support, and single-point-of-contact.



PHC ACQUIRES TOSHIBA EQUIPMENT

Philippine Medical Systems Inc (PMSI), exclusive distributor of Toshiba medical systems in the Philippines, signed with the Philippine Heart Center recently for the supply and installation of a Single Plane Cardiac Angiography and Interventional X-Ray Systems for PHC's catheterization laboratory. Honesto C. Evangelista, president of PMSI, and Dr. Ludgerio Torres, PHC medical director, shake hands after the signing. Witnessing the event are Juju Evangelista, PMSI sales director (5th from left), Elizabeth Florentino, head, area management service, DBP-NCR, Hitoshi Takasaka, chief representative of Toshiba Corp. in Manila (seated, left), and Dr. Jose Yulde, PHC assistant director for education, training and research (seated, right). PMSI won the bid based on a special evaluation process of the product and the commercial bid using a grade point system that considered product quality and support systems. PHC acquired the equipment through a loan from the Development Bank of the Philippines.

WORLDEXCO FAIR OPENS

The Worldexco Corporate Giveaways Fair opened recently at the World Trade Center. Shown during the ribbon-cutting ceremony were (from left) Worldexco vice chair Gerry Geronimo, HRAP chair Larry Cruz, Worldexco president Lynn Romero, Pasay City Mayor Peewee Trinidad, PTAA president Annette Feliciano, and Philippine Association of National Advertisers president Gigi B. Rodriguez of Citibank NA.

CHARACTERS UNLIMITED IN PAMPANGA

Characters Unlimited, the one-stop shop for cartoon characters, is now at Robinsons Starmills Pampanga. The grand opening celebration of the 13th branch of Characters Unlimited was led by Pampanga Rep. Oscar Rodriguez (3rd from right), Philippine Retailers Association chair Bing Limjoco (2nd from right), Creative Plus Inc. president and executive vice president Steven Ching (2nd from left) and Carolina Ching (left) with Characters Unlimited chair Lourdes Ching (3rd from left).

Kodak EasyShare CX4230 launch in Singapore

ANYTHING digital gets simpler and simpler everyday. Kodak recently unveiled its new product that will give photographers and ordinary people who just love to take pictures something to look forward to. The Kodak EasyShare CX4230 is not your usual digital camera. It boasts of a "share" button that will give users the freedom to manipulate the pictures right on the camera screen. The "share" button will also make it easier to print and e-mail pictures without the help of a scanner, or any other program in your computer. Kodak's digital photography also aims to reach the mass market alongside tech-savvy customers.

This camera is equipped with a free software aptly called EasyShare System, which will do all the work at a touch of a button. Kodak EasyShare CX4230 also comes with Dock II. Dock II automatically transfers pictures from the camera to the computer and recharges the battery pack at the same time. The Camera Dock is also compatible with Kodak EasyShare CX and DX series digital cameras. If you already have one of these Kodak cameras, fret not as the dock can be sold separately.

During its recent launch in Singapore, Eastman Kodak Company senior vice president Willy Shih gave a sample of how easy it is to use CX4230.

This 2-megapixel zoom digicam is the only camera in the world which allows pictures to be rotated right on the camera screen. CX4230 can store up to 32 e-mail addresses directly from the software.

This high-quality CX4230 offers prints up to 8"x10", a result assured by a new, all-glass Kodak Retinar lens, 3X optical zoom and a built-in Kodak color science that deliver exceptional digital images. With 16MB internal memory and MMC/SD card expansion shot you can store the following at the three quality settings: 24 images at 2 MP picture quality; 48 images at 1 MP picture quality; or 98 images at 0.5 MP picture qsuality.

"Kodak built the first digital camera back in 1976. We've been a pioneer in digital technology," Shih said. Kodak EasyShare CX4230 will be available in the Philippines this August.

4A'S ARAL SEMINAR 2002

The education and manpower development committee of the Association of Accredited Advertising Agencies-Philippines (4As-P) recently conducted its first Aral Seminar for 2002 at the AIM Acceed Center, Makati. Young professional from different member agencies gathered to learn more from the advertising experts. Guest speakers who came from top agencies generously shared their knowledge and presented their well-known commercials. 'Bridging the Gap Between Strategic Planning' and 'Creative, Effective Award-Winning Ads' were some of the topics discussed in the seminar. Rodenik Barbosa, senior account manager of DYR, poses with guest speakers from McCann Erickson Micky Domingo, VP and executive creative director and Nandy Villar, VP for strategic planning, together with 4As director Cyril dela Rama and Marivic Garcia, account director of DYR.

Feel the Difference in 7 days
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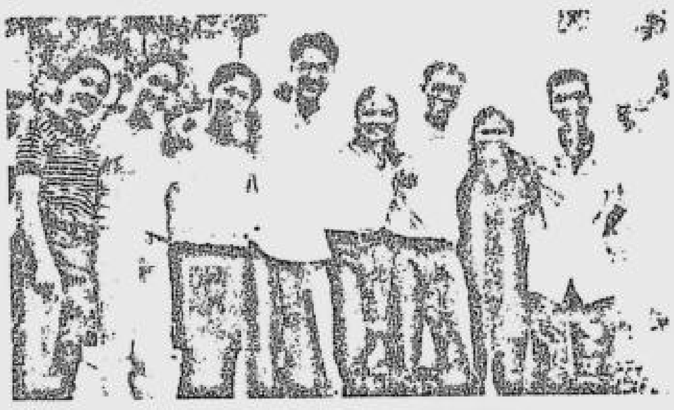
DOVE PRESENTER OF 'ILLUSIONE...ENCORE'

Dove, the premiere beauty cream bar of Unilever, sponsors 'Illusione...Encore' as major presenter in its shows at the Star Theater, CCP Complex on Aug. 16 to 18, 23 to 24, 30 to 31, and Sept. 1, in Davao at the CAP Auditorium on Aug. 2 and 3, in Cebu at the SM Theater on Aug. 9 and 10, and Pampanga at Freedom Ring on Sept. 6. Signing the agreement are Gertrudis M. Ibay, media planning manager (Unilever), Alex Tacdera, Dove brand manager (Unilever), and Margie Moran-Floirendo, president of Bahaghari Production Studios. Standing are Carmita B. Francisco and Nina Romualdez, producers of 'Illusione...Encore'. Other sponsors are WG&A Superferry, Air Philippines, The Philippine Daily Inquirer, Waterfront Hotel, Sulpicio Lines, NBC Joey, LJC Group of Restaurants, Quick Stomach, Virgin Café, Tequila Joe, Coke Lite, Philippine Airlines, Kinetic Trading, and Global Dolls and Porcelain.



DLSU-D CELEBRATES JUBILEE YEAR

The University Student Council of De La Salle University-Dasmarinas, whose members are shown here, and the different sectors of the Lasallian community celebrate the 25th anniversary of DLSU-D. The year-long celebration is packed with activities such as outreach programs, book launchings, art workshops, exhibits, the 'Freshmania', and a showcase of Caviteno traditions.

BITS & Clips

Networld's anniversary promo

Networld Hotel, the newest boutique hotel by the bay, celebrated its anniversary on July 3. As the hotel marked its milestone, it is proud to announce another tempting promotion: the P700 net per night rate. This rate is per person based on double occupancy, with breakfast. The promo applies to Filipino nationals only. Promo is valid until July 31. Call 536-5828, or 536-7777 local 102 for reservations and inquiries. Networld Hotel is located along Roxas Boulevard corner Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Pasay City.

Local Government Leadership Award

THE UP Center for Leadership, Citizenship and Democracy (CLCD), the UP Center for Local and Regional Governance (CLRG), the DLSU Institute of Governance, and the office of Sen. Aquilino Q. Pimentel are now accepting nominations for the first Local Government Leadership Award. Nominees should be Filipino citizens, elected and currently serving a local government unit, and has demonstrated the ability to lead and effect positive changes in the community. They will be selected based on transparency, accountability, participatory, rule of law, organization and management, continuity and sustainability of service delivery. A cash prize of P100,000 and a plaque of recognition will be awarded. Awarding ceremonies will be held this October to coincide with the 11th anniversary of the Local Government Code. Guidelines, nomination procedures and forms are available online at www.geocities.com/clrgncpag/ and at the offices of UP CLCD, UP CLRG, and De La Salle University. Call 925-4109, 926-1429, 552-6731

Abenson's 0% interest deals

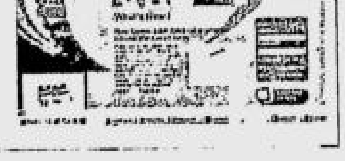
ENJOY good life at home with the lineup of over 50 home appliances on zero-percent interest. Until July 30, 42 Abenson stores are offering no-interest installments for three or six months on a wide selection of appliances. Choose between Samsung and Sharp washing machines at no interest installments. The biggest brands in air conditioners—Carrier, Condura, Sharp and LG Aircons are also on cool zero-percent deals. Enjoy watching DVDs or VCDs on large-screen Sony Wega TVs, DVD and VCD players, Samsung VCD players, Sharp TVs and components at no-interest installments. Swipe any of the seven major credit cards to avail yourself of these exclusive promos. Your BPI, Citibank, Metrobank, Equitable, Standard Chartered, Diners and AIG card are all fully loaded with the best zero-percent deals on home appliances.

Product FILES

Canon website launched

CANON Marketing Philippines Inc. brings its products and services closer to customers and business partners with the recent launch of its website www.canon.com.ph.

True to its theme "Technology That Makes You Smile", the site allows guests to easily access comprehensive information about the company and its whole line of products and services, and the latest promos and events.



The new site is fully animated. Its template color is likewise strikingly unique. The website goes red to live up to its corporate color.

Canon users can download drivers for their printers and scanners with just a click of the mouse, and get excellent technical support just as quickly.

OFW CARRIER TO ISRAEL

Israel's Ambassador to the Philippines Irit Ben-Abba recently hosted a get-together dinner at her residence to introduce El-Al Israel Airlines as a possible carrier of overseas Filipino workers to Israel. During the launch, El-Al's Asia and Oceania general manager Angel Weinstein and El-Al Israel Airlines Ltd. Philippines president Tess Arvisu announced free travel assistance with complimentary insurance for Israel-bound OFWs, and a complimentary ticket to Israel for manpower agencies for every 100 tickets issued in 90 days. Shown with the Ambassador (center) are, from left, Weinstein, First Consul of the Embassy of Israel Ziva Somech, Arvisu, and lawyer Jose A. Feria Jr., director of El-Al-GSA.

'QUINT' MEETING ENDS

US defends WTO farm proposal

NARA, Japan—United States Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman defended a US proposal to slash global farm subsidies as two days of talks between farm ministers ended here Saturday.

Nations at the "Quint" meeting of ministers from five major farm powers ended divided over whether the US plans contradicted the hefty domestic supports it introduced in May under its new farm bill.

But Veneman said the farm bill raises domestic aid to levels still below that of the EU and Japan and said it would "maintain a leadership position" in World Trade Organization talks aimed at slashing global farm aid and knocking down trade barriers.

"We are willing to make changes to our farm programs if other countries are willing to do the same," Veneman told a meeting ending news conference.

"But we want to put farmers around the world on an equitable playing field so that we can compete equally around the globe for agricultural products," she said.

The United States has been assailed by the European Union, Canadian and Japanese agriculture ministers over its proposal, to be submitted to the WTO next week, to slash global farm subsidies by $100 billion.

The proposal aims to reduce trade-distorting supports, while aiming to reduce average farm tariffs.

But the proposal flies in the face of a US farm bill that distributes to American farmers $180 billion for the farm seasons 2002 to 2007, ministers from the EU and Canada said.

Japan was also critical of the proposal, calling it "not realistic," while Australia welcomed it as an "encouraging sign that momentum is building for significant and much needed reform" of the bloated agricultural subsidy sector.

WTO ministers agreed in November last year in Doha, Qatar, to negotiations on reducing export subsidies with the aim of eventually phasing them out and making substantial reductions in trade-distorting domestic support.

WTO trade talks on agriculture began in January 2000 and numerical targets for subsidy and tariff reductions are due to be solidified in time for the next WTO ministers' meeting in Mexico in September 2003, with proposals due next March.

The Quint meeting groups the EU, the United States, Japan, Canada and Australia. *AFP*

EUROPEAN Agriculture Commissioner Franz Fischler wipes his forehead as he answers questions from reporters during a press conference after the QUINT Agriculture Ministerial Meeting in Nara, western Japan, July 27.

Brazilian president blasts US protectionism

BRAZILIAN President Fernando Henrique Cardoso on Friday fiercely criticized developed countries that preach free-market economics but practice protectionism.

He spoke here at a regional summit that is aimed at strengthening regional ties as a step to creating a South American trading bloc. The bloc serves as a counterweight to the United States in talks for the Free Trade Area of the Americas, the ambitious plan to lower and ultimately eliminate trade barriers across the Americas.

The presidents of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Paraguay, Peru and Venezuela are representing their countries at the event, while Suriname is represented by its foreign minister, and Uruguay by its vice president.

The summit's stated goal is to work on integrating regional infrastructure—highways, power plants, telecommunications and ports—that would increase trade, a goal outlined during the first summit in 2000 in Brasilia.

In his opening speech, Cardoso contrasted the push to economically integrate South America with behavior from developed countries—namely the United States, Canada and the European Union—which nominally support integration but maintain protectionist policies.

As originally envisioned, the Free Trade Area of the Americas project is to be implemented by 2005—and Brazil has emerged as its biggest critic.

"Let's see what will happen with the FTAA," Cardoso said. "Up to now signs from (the United States and Canada) have not been of openness, but of restriction," he said.

Washington and Toronto "talk about integration but practice exclusion," Cardoso said. "They talk about integration but place tariffs on products (exported by) developing countries."

Brazil has clashed with the United States over new broad farm subsidies and protection of the US steel industry, and with Canada over subsidies to their aircraft industry.

Cardoso also complained that talks to associate the Mercosur trade bloc to the European Union was advancing at a painfully slow pace. "Nevertheless we will continue to insist," Cardoso said.

Mercosur—short for common market of the south—is a loose customs union grouping Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay. Chile and Bolivia are associate members.

The Andean Group is a similar union that gathers Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela. *AFP*

No agreement at IMF on thorny bankruptcy plan

WASHINGTON—The International Monetary Fund has failed to reach agreement over mandating clauses in bond contracts to allow nations in economic trouble to restructure their debts, a new IMF report revealed on Friday.

The report, which detailed discussions among IMF directors on whether it would be prudent or possible to adopt such clauses in bond contracts to avoid messy defaults like that seen in Argentina, showed the international community locked in disagreement on almost every aspect.

The proposal, put forward by the US Treasury Department as a way to avoid the type of economic meltdown seen earlier this year when Argentina defaulted on its $133 billion of debts, has failed to curry favor with emerging market nations.

"The dynamic is that the borrowing, emerging market countries are afraid that if collective action clauses are put into their debt that they will have to pay a few basis points premium for it," one IMF executive director told Reuters.

The IMF director also said some borrowing nations were wary that bond markets might punish a country that tried to include such clauses in their bond contracts in the fear that such an adoption could be an admission that trouble was brewing.

Proponents of what are known as collective action clauses—which detail what would happen if a country needs to default on its debts—believe such legal language in bonds would allow for more orderly markets.

Orderly markets, they say, would allow both borrowers and lenders to better factor risk, thereby making the market more efficient and default less problematic if it occurred.

But the IMF report noted there could be a "first mover problem in adopting" such clauses. That "first mover" problem is something the IMF has encountered in recent years with its innovative new Contingency Credit Line loan.

The loan, referred to in IMF shorthand as a CCL, has a simple premise and one the lender expected would be popular among borrowers. In essence the CCL offers a shield to countries the IMF deems is following solid economic policy, allowing them to open up a credit line with the IMF in case they later run into trouble not of their own doing.

However, to date, not a single country has signed up for a CCL loan despite protracted solicitations by the IMF intended to encourage Mexico to adopt a CCL as an example for others.

The use of collective action clauses is common in sovereign bonds issued in London and has been encouraged by some industrialized countries since 1996. Despite that, opposition from Wall Street has left about 70 percent of bonds issued without such clauses. New York and Frankfurt are among the major centers where such clauses are not included in contracts.

The proposal, fleshed out by the US Treasury in recent months, is part of efforts to bolster crisis-prevention in the global economy in the belief that an ounce of prevention is better than a pound of cure, or a billion-dollar IMF bailout. *Reuters*

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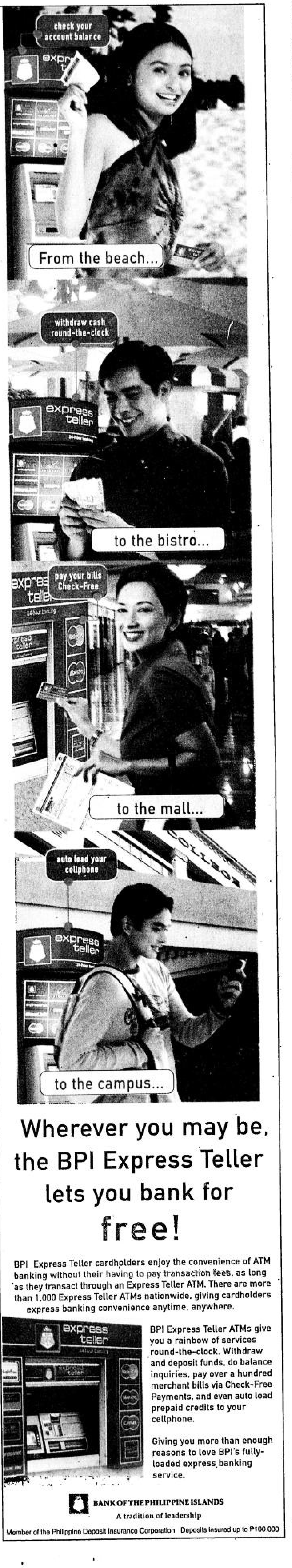

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HOUSE Majority Whip Tom DeLay meets with reporters on Capitol Hill Friday to discuss corporate accountability and retirement security. Spurred by a meltdown in the stock market, Congress has passed with remarkable speed the biggest changes in corporate accounting practices in six decades. Partly hidden is Rep. George Gekas. AP

NEW YORK—Battered investors finally got something to smile about over the past week, as an electrifying mid-week rally fueled optimism that the worst of the bloodletting may be over.

The Dow Jones industrials managed to come out of its tailspin with a 3.06-percent gain for the week, closing Friday at 8,264.39 after a plunge of more than 7 percent in each of the past two weeks.

The tech-heavy Nasdaq, however, ended with a loss of 4.32 percent at 1,262.12, its fourth consecutive weekly loss despite a strong gain in Wednesday's rally.

The Standard and Poor's 500, which represents the broader market, ended with a small 0.60-percent gain at 852.84.

Analysts said the powerful rally Wednesday, the biggest in 15 years, may have helped turn the tide after the most vicious bear market in decades.

Some analysts said that they were encouraged that stocks held up well after Wednesday's surge, featuring a 488-point gain for the Dow blue-chip index.

Larry Wachtel of Prudential Securities said it was also encouraging that stocks did not sell off late Friday—which had been the recent pattern, with traders reluctant to go into the weekend with long positions.

"Something has changed," said Wachtel. "The short-sellers no longer win hands down, and that midweek upside explosion might have been an inflexion point, ushering in a more two-sided affair. We need more proving out next week, but for the moment, you don't have to settle for hamburger."

Others said the markets may be overcoming the crisis of confidence and coming out of its despair.

Alfred Goldman of AG Edwards said he felt investors will come out of their shell and realize that stocks have been beaten down to attractive levels.

"Most investors follow the herd and allow their emotions to overcome their common sense," he said.

"We sincerely hope that our readers step back and look at the big picture, which is the long-term outlook for our country. We like what we see. Tighten your belt, take some stomach acid pills, don't look at the stock market every day, and do bet on the future of our great nation. Irrational depression creates rational opportunities."

Experts said that looking at the economy, recovery is continuing, although the slow pace makes it fragile.

"I think the economy is still on the recovery track and moving forward. The risk is that all the troubles in the stock market will have a negative effect on consumer spending and business investment spending," said Mike Carey, US economist at Credit Lyonnais.

"There is no denying that the economy is recovering. It's just a very subpar recovery and one that is still vulnerable to an exogenous shock," said Mark Vitner, economist at Wachovia Securities.

There are several important releases this week, including the July manufacturing index of the Institute for Supply Management and nonfarm payroll data. *AFP*

US bill latest salvo in Internet media feud

SAN FRANCISCO—US lawmakers are set to launch an unprecedented assault on computer users passing unauthorized digital copies of movies, music and other entertainment media.

It's the latest salvo in an ongoing battle between the world's largest entertainment companies and technology companies.

US Representative Howard Berman, a California Democrat, has introduced a bill allowing the entertainment industry to attack individual computer networks trading pirated files over the Internet.

These networks—commonly known as "peer-to-peer" or P2P networks—are comprised of individual computers that link up through the Internet to share files and usually dissolve after the files are passed.

The bill introduced Thursday would shield industry groups, such as the Recording Industry Association of America or various Hollywood film industry organizations, from anti-hacking laws when they go after P2P networks to stop the flow of copyrighted material.

RIAA chair Hilary Rosen cheered the legislation.

"The current landscape for online music is dangerously one-sided, with the peer-to-peer pirates enjoying an unfair advantage," she said in a statement. "It makes sense to clarify existing laws to ensure that copyright owners—those who actually take the time and effort to create an artistic work—are at least able to defend their works from mass piracy."

The legislation drew a sharp response from companies that publish software to establish P2P networks.

"We urge all users and supporters of technology innovation to contact Congress and voice strong opposition to this entertainment industry effort to gain exemption from the law and take malicious action against consumer's privacy and other rights," Sharman Networks said in a statement.

Sharman is one of a number of companies that distribute the controversial Kazaa software, a popular P2P system that has been sued repeatedly for copyright infringement.

The legislation is the latest in a number of battles currently being waged between the Hollywood entertainment industry and the technology world. Technologists argue that innovations are inevitable and the entertainment industry should not use its copyright powers to stifle progress. Record and film industries counter that copyright protections are key to the industry's financial well-being, which is threatened by new technologies that make piracy increasingly easier. *AFP*

HK Disneyland to be China flagship project—Walt Disney

HONG KONG—US entertainment giant Walt Disney International insists it remains firmly committed to Hong Kong Disneyland and stressed the $2.8-billion project will become its flagship operation in China.

However, Disney refused to state whether it had signed an agreement to construct another theme park in China's northeastern financial hub of Shanghai.

It said only that two parks in the mainland were a possibility, the South China Morning Post reported Saturday.

Walt Disney Parks and Resorts chair Paul Pressler Friday sought to allay fears over the potential impact of a Shanghai park on the Hong Kong project.

"It has always been our intention to have Hong Kong as our flagship theme park (in China)," he told the Post.

There were concerns that if Shanghai built another theme park it could drain visitors away from Hong Kong.

He reiterated the company was considering the possibility of building a theme park in mainland China but no decision had been made.

However, with China's "enormous" population of 1.3 billion "we believe that China has the potential for an additional theme park," he said, noting that America, with a population size of 275 million, had two Disney parks.

It has been rumored that Walt Disney was in talks with Shanghai to build a park, scheduled to open by 2008.

But development and planning bureau officials in Shanghai's financial district of Pudong, the proposed site, denied press reports which said a deal had been reached.

The Hong Kong Disney theme park is being built on a 126-hectare site on outlying Lantau island and is expected to open in 2005 or 2006.

It is a joint venture between the government and Disney and forms part of a strategy to haul Hong Kong out of difficult economic times. *AFP*

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Cojuangco bank to hit ₱350-M income in '02

By Elena R. Torrijos

BANK of Commerce, a mid-sized commercial bank controlled by the family of businessman Antonio O. Cojuangco, expects to post a net income of P350 million this year.

Bank president Raul de Mesa said the improved profit would come mainly from the reduction in costs as he expected little growth in loans this year.

He, however, expected more business from its expanded branch network following the acquisition of Traders Royal Bank. The merger was finalized earlier this month.

De Mesa said the bank had no plans to sell duplicate or redundant branches but would relocate some 17 such branches to other areas, including Baguio, Tarlac, Naga, Las Piñas, Bicol, Calamba, Cavite.

The merged bank has 112 branches, more than half of which were Traders branches. The network would expand to 150 within the next five years.

Bank of Commerce earlier reported an after-tax income of P209 million for the first six months of the year, a 605-percent increase from the net income posted in the same period last year.

This was attributed to the increase in net interest revenues brought about by improved margins. This was achieved despite declining interest rates that cut down yield on assets.

Total deposits grew by 32 percent even prior to its acquisition of Traders Royal Bank (TRB) branches. The loan portfolio inched up by less than 3 percent, however, because of the slow credit market and the bank's cautious lending stance.

De Mesa said the bank "will continue to pursue its expansion place by evaluating opportunities presently available through more mergers and acquisitions."

The bank was reportedly looking to acquire First E-Bank from the Metro Pacific Group.

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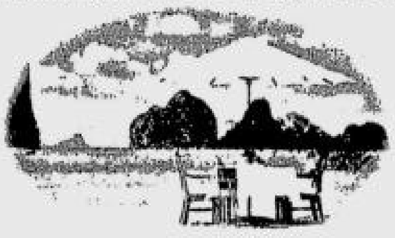

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British MBA looking for Filipino Scholars

The Edinburgh Business School MBA, one of the largest and most expected MBA programs in the world, is looking for fifteen (15) high-caliber candidates for its partial scholarship program. Any Filipino citizen who has exemplified excellence in his/her chosen career is eligible to apply and join the first group of scholars.

From numerous applicants, ten (10) have qualified to be accepted into the first batch of Edinburgh Business School Scholars. All of them are senior managers from highly respected institutions such as Unilab, Ayala, Coca-cola, Philips, and the Department of Finance, just to name a few. They have been granted the scholarships on the basis of their commendable academic background, extensive work experience, and the desire to earn a top-notch British MBA.

The Edinburgh School is the graduate school of business of Heriot-Watt University. Its MBA program is recognized by Fortune 500 companies and was reviewed by the Economist Intelligence Unit as "one of the world's best." As a testament to its excellence, the program has been given the Queen's Award for Export Achievement twice, in 1994 and 1999. It boasts of 9,000 students worldwide with 6,000 graduates already reaping the rewards of their investment.

The prestigious MBA is now being offered in the Philippines in cooperation with York School of Management. Classes are flexible and have been designed for busy professional. Students have the option to complete the full-program in the Philippines, or take a portion of the program here and continue on-campus in the UK. Classes are held in Eastwood at the third level of the ICITE building, 12 Orchard Road, Eastwood City Cyberpark, Libis, Quezon City.

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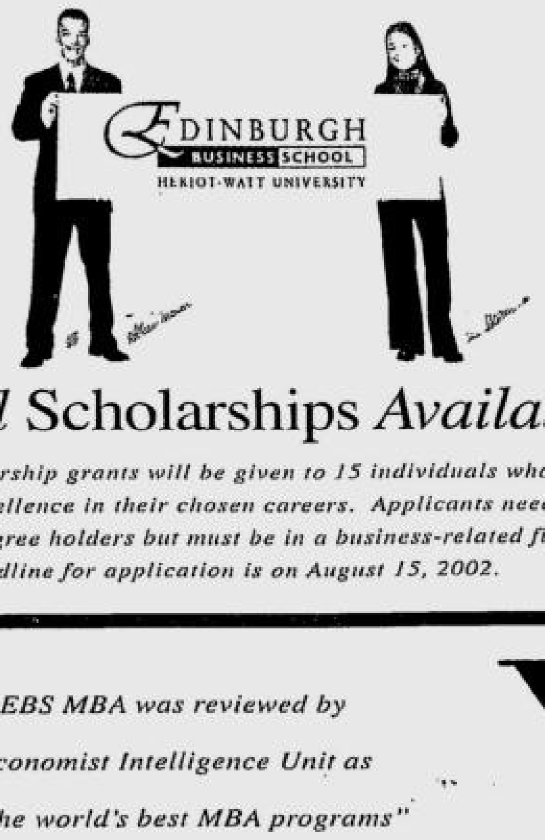

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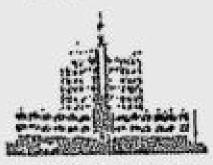

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KENTWOOD TWNHSE 3BR 5.5M 4121825

Speaker Perez 4BR P7M neg FA350 nr Retiro 2588019

RESORT

San Juan Batangas 3.2 ha Beach Prop P200/sq.m. Good for Resort T:8967265/8576

ZAMBALES AREAS Call 0919-3279260

FACTORY/WHSE

Whse 500sqm TAGUIG 837-0523 • 838-7263 • 642-8941

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

APARTMENT

MAKATI

2BR 1TB nr MunHall 8.5T 8708452

MANDALUYONG

Nr Megamall 10T 5315809

PARANAQUE

Cor. 8th & 10-E Sts United Paranaque V, Paranaque City Tel. 8254661 Office Hours; 7765609 After Office Hours

PASAY

2BR Cuenca/Lib •831-5026•

QUEZON CITY

New Studio Diliman QC 8156172/8173722

Nr SM City Edsa 2BR U&D w/ Prkg 80C Pangasinan T-9263934 CP# 0917-4796789 • P6,500/mo.

•P5.5T Studio T-9267419

ALABANG

MALATE 1,2,3 BR UNITS 1.8M UP 0918-9132396

HOUSE

MAKATI

3BRM GARAGE 10T 831-4191

3BRM Garage 10T 831-4191

Maga-Vill 2Sty Hse 4BR TB 4Car Grg 722-9573 • 414-8184

PASIG

2 Houses 3BR 2TB w/ Carport Pls. Call 713-1859

QUEZON CITY

Corinthian's QC Pool 9114460

T.SORA DFV QC 2BR 1TB P9T/MO. 7312110 / 7312109

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

COMML/RESDL

VARIOUS AREAS

QUEZON CITY
Libis E Rodriguez Jr C-5
Three (3) Adjacent Lots
11,004, 11,084, 11,072sqm
Frontage 110 M
Near Eastwood
Discounted Price;
Installment Terms

Surigao Street
Bgy. Nayong Kanluran
Off West Ave/Del Monte
Vacant Lot 600 sqm

MALABON
Tugatog UH Del Pilar
Two (2) Adjacent Lots
6,120 & 2,033 sqm
Frontage 75 M
Flood Free Near Gov. Pascual

MAKATI
Legaspi Vil Pasia FCC Bldg
Beside Union Church
1/F Three(3)Office Condos
GFA/sqm 48 83.35 50.46 (3)
Leaseback Optional to Buyer
Warranted 10%Net Return Yr

North Forbes Cambridge Circle
Lot 1,750 sqm w/
concrete bungalow

Galleria de Magallanes
Lapulapu St. Res. Condo
3 BDR/3TB Parking 2 Slot

MANILA
Malate Roxas Blvd 3,838 sqm
Adriatico 1,189 sqm
Paco San Gregorio 2,409 sqm
Sta. Cruz Rizal Ave 1,112 sqm

MUNTINLUPA
Ayala Alabang Tamarind Dr
Lot 746 sqm w/ 2-storey
Concrete Res. FA 524sqm

BAGUIO
Brent Road Pinendge
Res. Condo 3BDR 3TB
Balcony Parking Slot 1

CEBU
Cebu City Business Park
Cebu Holdings 4/F
Office Condo 93 sqm
Parking Slot Price P3M

DUMAGUETE
Rizal Blvd cor Lot
913 sqm Commercial

ZITRO REAL ESTATE
Makati 818-2781; 751-5472
Cebu (032) 232-3361

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

new studio/2BR/clinic/OFC P8T up no association dues 1672 Dian St., Mkti. nr Buendia. Call Rose 843-9418 or 536-9509

MANILA

NEW CONDO PACO TEL 5636296

PASIG

MPlaza Ortigas Std FFurn 12K 0917-9681708, 951-6418

QUEZON CITY

Kanlaon St nr Lourdes Church 3BR 3TB P18.5T 7312110/89

nr Cubao Araneta MRT new 1br ff ac 896-0327 Grace

FOR LEASE

LOT. 2ND ST GRACE PARK 218.90m²@P35T 7312110/89

ROOM & BOARD

New Ladies Dorm Nr UST Class"A" Tel.6451185/6810992

BEDSPACE

Prof. Single Ladies P1350 33 Oliveros. Mand. 532-9925

LOAN & MORTGAGE

2% w/o TAKING CAR 3677523/24

BUSINESS RENTAL

2Sty FA380sqm 3phase lot Imperial Cubao 9123930

COMML SPACE 330m² Dasmarinas St Binondo COMML&RESDL SPACES Alvarado St Binondo OFFICE SPACES Far East Asia Bldg Dasma Binondo Call # 2429473 & 2429463

★Med Plz Ortigas Sale/Rent 40-75m² 4121825 09177914366

Jol. Plz Ofc 100-150m² 412-1825

LRI Business Plz Reposo Mkti Gym/Bar/Spa/Resto/Cafe • 895-5470/8114436 • M-F

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

HYUNDAI

Starex '09 A/T 633-6754

ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK
P.O. Box 789 Manila, Philippines
6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City, Philippines

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS OPERATION SERVICES

Contract No. ADB/OAS-2002/030

1. The Asian Development Bank ("ADB"), a multilateral development finance institution headquartered in Manila, Philippines, invites interested companies to apply for prequalification in the bidding for Telecommunications Operation Services at ADB Building, No. 6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City, Philippines. The services include all works necessary to maintain ADB's fax, telex, telephone switchboard and Communication Center operations, as well as the daily routine of the leased line for all existing and future Regional Missions (RMs) and Regional Offices (ROs) through scheduled abbreviated dialing. The scope of services is provided in detail in the Work Performance Statement given to interested applicants.
2. Prequalification is open to firms and voluntarily-formed joint ventures from eligible members of ADB meeting the following criteria:
    - i. Legally registered commercial enterprise or a subsidiary of a company established for at least ten (10) years in the business of providing telecommunications operation services;
    - ii. Makes available one staff supervisor with at least 4 years college education and 10 years experience in the telecoms operation related services, 7 years of which in a supervisory capacity, and proficient in the use of Personal Computers (PCs);
    - iii. Minimum of 5 clients (2 of which must be current) with similar scope and nature of service rendered as described above;
    - iv. A generated annual revenue of P15 million derived from telecommunications operation services for the last three (3) years;
    - v. Available credit of P3 million.
3. The contract shall be for one year and thereafter ADB has the option to renew the contract every year for a maximum of five years.
4. Eligible applicants may obtain the prequalification documents by calling or faxing the Head, Contracts Section, General Services Division, Office of the Administrative Services, Asian Development Bank, No. 6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City, Philippine at Tel. Nos. 632-5641, 632-4231, Fax No. 636-2567 and e-mail address: adjusupbekova@adb.org or dmuñoz@adb.org from 31 July to 6 August 2002 (8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.) The documents are available are available for a non-refundable fee of Pesos Three Hundred (P300.00).
5. Submissions of Applications for Prequalification must be received in sealed envelopes, which must be delivered either by hand or by registered mail to:

    Head, Contracts Section
    General Services Division
    Office of the Administrative Services
    Asian Development Bank
    No. 6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City
    Philippines

    not later than 6 September 2002, and be clearly marked "Application to Prequalify for Telecommunications Operation Services. Contract No. ADB/OAS-2002/030".
6. This invitation does not entail any commitment on the part of the ADB, either financial or otherwise. Any cost of preparation for prequalification shall be borne solely by the applicant. ADB reserves the right to accept or reject any application for prequalification and to reply only to the companies, which are considered by ADB to be prequalified.

(Sgd.) NORMIN S. PAKPAHAN
Chairman
Procurement Committee
Office of Administrative Services

(PDI – July 29 & 30, 2002)

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

ISUZU

01-Nov Isuzu, 10Ft. Alum Van 220T Neg. 0917-8162123

XUV No-Pila 0917-3908413

MERCEDES

300SD Turbo Dsl 350T 6376790

MITSUBISHI

'92 S. Wagon 185T 871-2007

'95 EL LNCER 190T 656-3590

95 Lancer GLI P185T MT 40TKms 0917-9214460 (Gio)

NISSAN

93 Sentra ECCS A/T 165T Neg. 427-5631 • 0918-3264339

TOYOTA

'90 Toyota Cressida A1 Cond. P220T Neg. Call 371-0143 • 373-6240 Mrs Hojilla / Mr. Ramira M-F Off Hrs.

OTHER CAR BRANDS

Pajero Delica Terrano MU Surf Trooper Hi-Town Ace tax paid 912-0647•0917-8342020

MOTORCYCLE

89 Yamaha 750 Special P80T Neg. • 0917-9214460

2000 Knight 550cc Maroon Harley look Call 272-7813

BUSES/TRUCKS

JAP. TOURIST/CITY BUS SALE 09174810821

Light & Heavy Recon Trucks 30% DP; 14% 1year 776-4287•787-6305•0917-3318471

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

L3•Cars• 9273453 4538295

ABC-CARS & VANS
Starex, Urvan, REVO, L300, HiAce, MB100, Altis, Honda, Cefiro, Lancer, Corolla, Lynx, Corona, Exalta, Mazda, Sentra
Manila H.O. 5368622 / 3039789
Q.C. Br. 4251391 9262314

Cheap Van 8254058 8261045

BRDAL MB VANS 9206250

Vans Coaster Bus 913-9123

L300 T7411356

L300/Vans 578-8917 (Roger)

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

FCU CAR RENTAL
U DRIVE OR W/DRIVER
HONDA REVO TOYOTA
Tel 722-8434 / 722-8438

P800/L3 9136710/4333682

REVO w/driver 9272821

STAREX L300 CARS 726-8388

Toyco Self Drive Carvan Coaster Rental •800-6595•

WANTED TO BUY

BUYING USED CARS 8990215

CAR LOAN

1.5% EasyCarLoan 4000166 -67

1.5% FAST CAR LOAN 3677523/24

2% w/o Taking Car 8966633

2% w/o Taking Car 7228942/43

2% w/oTaking Car 3646928

2% w/oTaking Car 3732083

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

★USED CAR LOAN 7262780

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

PETS

DOG TRAINER 4528681

PHIL. DOG SCHOOL
Trains Dogs Scientifically
Tel.7213736 • 0917-8483181

Pug M 9mos. Champ Line 252-0406 • 410-0017

ROTTWEILER PUPS Champln 0917-8994600/0917-8372007

• SHIH TZU PUPS 414-9426 •

SPORTING GOODS

BILLIARDS P30/33/36/38T A1 Olty B.New 8014494/8020566

WANTED TO BUY

ANY ROLEX
Buy / Sell / Pawn / Repair
Tel# 804-0484 • 834-2886

B/SELL EDUC'L 8061574

BUYING ROLEX
others, High Price CASH
09178142309/7269897/4123543

Buy/Pawn Diamonds T834-2886

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

WANTED TO BUY

WE BUY AT HIGH PRICE
ROLEX
5633742 5646593 09178473744

MISCELLANEOUS

B/SELL EDUC PLAN GIE 780-0106 / 0917-7939632

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS
Bassons / Clarinets
Baritons / Euphoniums
Eb Alto Saxophones
Flutes / French Horns
Lyres / Oboes / Piccolos
Sousaphones / Tenor
Saxophones / Symbals
Trombones/Trumpets/Tubas
T9361426/9372622/9372640

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE

Surveyor, Assistant Surveyor, Cameraman •4589650•

FEMALE

Domestic Helper •843-2596•

HRD STF 0919-8914505 Gwynet

NURSES, MIDWIFE: GRAD /UNDERGRAD/UNDERBOARD 2600 Legarda, Sampaloc, Manila

•RELIABLE MAIDS 8330946/47

Resident Physician & Midwife Call 640-1885 • 641-2221 Dra. Ventura or Grace

Stayin Sec. 20-30yo 4216053

MALE/FEMALE

★OFFICE STAFF★
18-45,w/ w/o exp START ASAP
913-4470 Look for ZOBEL

Btician allow comm 1372 Quezon Ave. T-3736692 Gale

FREE Care Giver Seminar 5614990 5638009

★OFC STAFF 18-40yo w/w/o exp 9134470 Len Urgent★

HRDSTF 09202545872 REXIE

IMD'T HIRE! 18 OFC. CLERK! START ASAP 6395036 "GWEN"

Looking For an Expert Sewer (M/F): Experienced in Bags and Wallets also Looking for a Bag & Wallet Designer Call 363-9662 or Txt 0919-3058942

OFC STAFF 09165218635 Porsh

Sales Rep. (PRNTNG Press) Com. Basis. FT / PT 722-9656

URGENT! OFC STAFF DIRECT HIRING 913-4470 MR. TROY

PUBLIC NOTICES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Adultwear consign 3738821

BAZAAR Tiange Forbes Park - Call 7137030•7137231

EARN EXTRA 15,000!! PT/FT Int'l. Travel+Trng • 806-6776

•Travel N Earn From Home• Arlene 8531008 (0917)8901851

EARN FROM HOME 847-6341

Earn P10K / Wk Work From Home Multilinguals R Welcome! Call Mari 642-5696 M-F

EARN UR WORTH PT/FT •936-8978 0919-8484921•

EXTRA INCOME W/ OR WITHOUT LEAVING UR JOB 4 INFO. CONTACT RUEL 0916-5179684

I MAKE P500,000.00/mo
Needs Women To Train 23-48yrs old
• Tel# 525-0234 •

P'que Seafood Restaurant 180m² along NAIA Main Rd., Sucat Pque., Spacious Parking Area, Operational with Staff & Restaurant Equipments. RUSH! Owner Leaving. P2.5M Negotiable. Call Regie at 0916-8260263 • 532-2417

PREPAID CELLCARDS
671-5405 • 0918-5528869

Sales Commis'ns 364-7559

Supervisors P/F Time 8376068

Train For Success
0917-8371152

Want to generate some
EXTRA INCOME
for a minimum P1,000 investment?
Employees, Students and Office Workers welcome
100% MONEY BACK GUARANTEE
4123561 / 67 / 57 / 58
extraprofit@yahoo.com

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is given that PAM Parking Slot #14 in the name of RONALD RAQUEL has been lost. If no contest received, new cert. will be issued. (PDI July 28, 29, 30, 2002.)

NOTICE is given in the loss of a Vinebel Realties, Inc. Stock Certificate No. 006 issued in the name of THE HONGKONG & SHANGHAI BANK dated February 9, 1987 for 899,999 shares. If no adverse claim is received, a new certificate will be issued.
(PDI - July 22, 29 & Aug. 5, 2002)

AUCTION SALE

Plant no longer required in the continuing operations of Primo Oleochemicals, Inc.

COMPLETE COCONUT OIL MILL; SOLVENT RECOVERY PLANT; DEODORIZING PLANT; SANDVIK SOLIDIFICATION PLANT; PLANT SERVICES; STRUCTURAL STEEL; MACHINE SHOP EQUIPMENT; MOBILE PLANT

IN OVER 500 LOTS INCLUDING:

COCONUT OIL MILL - *Meat Preparation* - (8) Drum Crusher Mills; (2) TRI-CIRCLE Double Fluted Cracking Rolls; KRUPP O23V/TRI-CIRCLE Twin Roll Flaking Mills; *Full Press* - (12) ANDERSON 25T/day cap., ANDERSON TS5 Heavy Duty "Duplex Super Duo" Oil Expellers w/ Vertical/Horizontal Presses, Cookers & Conditioners; (2) JAPAN Plate Filter Press w/ (33) Filter Plates; *Pre-Press* - (3) KRUPP 2200 4200 Kg cap./ KRUPP 2200 2100 Kg. Copra Cake Jacketed Steam Heating Kettles w/ 6 Mixing Paddles; (7) KRUPP 986VP Multi-Step Automatic Expellers; (2) NIAGARA 60H 725-3 Plate Filter Presses w/ (33) Filter Plates; KRUPP B65 Vibrating Screen; *Pettelising* - (2) CALIFORNIA 100HP, KHC 200HP Pellet Mills w/ Feed Screw Conveyor, Mixer; KRUPP Pellet Cooler; *Bucket Elevators/Rotolifts* - (7) Bucket Elevators; (5) Rotolifts; *Screw Conveyors/Belt Conveyors* - (35) Screw Conveyors 3M to 35M; (5) Belt Conveyors 15M to 75M, *Miscellaneous* - Qty. Of Silos; Hoppers, Tanks, Screening Tanks, Cake Spreaders/Coolers, Oil Pumps, Steam Condensate Pumps, Water Pumps, Blowers, Cyclones, Air Compressors, Motor Control Center, etc.

SOLVENT RECOVERY PLANT (TO BE SOLD AS ONE LOT) - KRUPP-BLAW KNOX 18 Cell Rotocell Extractor, 1500 kgs/cell cap. w/ Feed Conveyor, Rotary Air Locks, Discharge Conveyors, Exhaust Fans, Gas Tight Screw Conveyors; KRUPP 5 Cylinder Gas Tight Horizontal Dryer; KRUPP Vertical, 4 Stage, High Toaster w/ Agitator, Rotary Airlock, Discharge Conveyor, Dust Collector; Reflux Condensers; Solvent Pre-heater, Miscella Tank & Pumps, (2) First Effect Evaporators, Second Effect Evaporator, Stripping Column, Vacuum Condensers, Waste Water Stripper, Atmospheric Condensers, Absorber Column/Condensers, Condensate Tank/Pump Motor Control Center, Solvent Recovery Building Structure

DEODORIZING PLANT (TO BE SOLD AS ONE LOT) 1995 (UNUSED) - DE SMET Stainless Steel Deodorizing Tank; GEKA NUK-HP High Pressure Boiler; DE SMET Stainless Steel Feed Oil Tank w/ Oil Pumps; (2) APV BAKER N35 Plate Heat Exchanger, (2) AMETIK Stainless Steel Polishing Filters

SOLIDIFICATION PLANT 1999 - SANDVIK Flaking & Bagging Plant w/ Steel Belt Cooler, DUNHAM BUSH WC60B Chiller, COMPUTER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM AG2P-FSF Computerized Bagging Scale

STORAGE TANKS - 2541T cap/2026 T cap. Mild Steel Plate; Crude Coconut Oil Storage Tanks; 2026 T cap./1585 T cap./ 1540 T cap. Mild Steel Plate Bunker Fuel Storage Tanks; (2) 15,000 Litre cap. Mild Steel Tanks; Coconut Oil/Bunker Fuel Transfer/Loading Pumps

ELECTRICAL - 2.5MVA Substation Transformer; (3) WESTINGHOUSE 333KVA/(3) 100 KVA Transformers; MWM 700KVA Diesel Generators; A Large Qty. of Heavy Duty Electric Cable

BUILDINGS - Machine Shop Building, Alloy Sheet, Cladding & Roof; COPRA Warehouse #1 A Frame Structural Steel; COPRA Warehouse #2 A Frame Structural Steel w/ Alloy Sheet

MACHINE SHOP EQUIPMENT - SHOUN Gap Bed Centre Lathe; KOREA Gap Bed Centre Lathe, BRADFORD Centre Lathe; TO SHING TS500A Gap Bed Centre Lathe; SOUTHBEND 16" Lathe; AMADA Horizontal Bandsaw GREAT CAPTAIN Hacksaw; VARNAMO Shaper; Heavy Duty Pedestal Drill; SM Bench Drill; OGURA Super II/ JAPAN Pipe Threading Machines; Hydraulic Garage Press, AC Welding Set, Overhead Traveling Chain Hoists; MITSUI SEIKI Screw Compressor

LABORATORY - (2) LABCONCO Protector Laboratory Hoods; Laboratory Glassware; Electrothermal Heating Unit; BOSCH AE200 Laboratory Scale; NETEX Digital Balance; Asstd. Laboratory Chemicals

NON OPERATIONAL & SCRAP MOBILE PLANT - *Heavy Equipment* - HITACHI Hydraulic Excavator, KAWASAKI KLD802 Wheeled Loader; TCM Wheeled Loader; BOBCAT 743 Skid Steer Loader *Cranes & Lifting Equipment* - GALLION RT Crane; LINKBELT 18T cap./LINKBELT 35T cap. Truck Crane w/ Lattice Boom; KOMATSU SD25 R.T. Forklift; TCM FG25 N4 Forklift; Small cap. Forklift *Trucks* - Asstd. Flat Bed/ Dump Trucks, Light Duty Dropside Trucks, etc.

MISCELLANEOUS & SCRAPS - (3) Stainless Steel DN200 Sealed Box Valves; 1m Wide Conveyor Belting (unused); (3) 40' Storage Containers; Asstd. Diesel Engines; Asstd. Large cap. Valves; Asstd. Transformers; Large cap. Pumps; SUCINO Jet Pump; Wire Rope; Hydraulic Boom Arms; Electrical Insulators & Capacitors, Asstd. Electric Motors (to 75hp); Steel Shaft; Stainless Steel Angle Bar; Asstd. Bearings (unused); Asstd. Filter Elements; Asstd. Barrel Bar; Asstd. Drive Belts; Asstd. Gauges; Asstd. Electric/Pneumatic Power Tools; Asstd. Hand Tools; Drive Chain; Asstd. Expeller Spare Parts; Bearings/Pillow Blocks; Fire Extinguishers; Steel Drums; Plastic Containers, etc.

**AT: PRIMO OLEOCHEMICALS, INC.
BRGY. OSMENA, JOSE PANGANIBAN, CAMARINES NORTE
ON: SATURDAY 3RD AUGUST 2002 AT 10:30AM
ON VIEW: FRIDAY 2ND AUGUST 2002 FROM 9:00AM TO 5:00PM OR BY PRIOR APPOINTMENT
REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT: PHP50,000 (UPON REGISTRATION)**

HENRY BUTCHER

HENRY BUTCHER INTERNATIONAL PHILS. INC.
102 Ground Floor, Jollliand Bldg., 670 EDSA, Pasay City
Tel: (63-2)-852 2910 * 11 Fax: (63-2)-831-9507
E-mail: manila@henrybutcher.com
www.henrybutcher.com

PNOC - Energy Development Corporation
Energy Center, Merritt Road
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila
Telephone 8931320 ext. 5131 Fax 8401461

INVITATION FOR PREQUALIFICATION/ ELIGIBILITY AND BIDDING

The PNOC - Energy Development Corporation (PNOC-EDC) invites Contractors classified by and registered with the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) as IAC Medium Sub-Category B in Building and Industrial Plant to apply for prequalification/eligibility and if subsequently found eligible, to bid for the project:

CIVIL, STRUCTURAL and MECHANICAL/PIPING WORKS for the CONSTRUCTION of LGPF STEAMLINE INTERCONNECTION PROJECT STAGE 3 under Bid/Project No. EDC 02-158

The work calls for the supply of labor, supervision, materials, equipment, tools, consumables, and other services necessary for the: (a) conversion of the existing SS32-4RC line from a reinjection line to a steam line; (b) construction of a brine reinjection from SS32 to Tongonan reinjection line; and (c) construction of a steam supply line from the steamline interconnection (SI) to the VGPC power plant in Malitbog at PNOC-EDC's Leyte Geothermal Production Field (LGPF), Tongonan, Leyte.

The Prequalification/eligibility forms may be secured from the Contracts Administration Group (c/o Raymond Sison) starting **July 30, 2002**, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday upon payment of a non-refundable fee of One Hundred Pesos (P100.00).

The prequalification/eligibility documents must be submitted to the Contracts Administration Group not later than 5:00 p.m. of **August 15, 2002.**

Bid documents shall be issued to eligible Contractors starting **September 4, 2002** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of One Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00).

The pre-bid conference and site inspection for said project shall be announced later.

Sealed bids in three (3) sets shall be received by the Contracts Administration Group at the above address not later than 2:00 p.m. of **October 3, 2002** and then to be publicly opened immediately thereafter.

PNOC - EDC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any informality therein, to accept such bids or to award any part of the work to any bidder whose bid is considered most advantageous to PNOC - EDC.

(Sgd.) **ESTER R. GUERZON**
Manager, Operations
Services Division

(PDI - July 29, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
MANILA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY
Ninoy Aquino International Airport, Metro Manila

INVITATION FOR CONSULTING SERVICES

The Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA) invites eligible Filipino consulting firms duly registered with the Department of Trade and Industry or the Securities and Exchange Commission for the purpose of drawing a long list from which a selection shall be made for the provision of consulting services for the ***Detailed Engineering Design and Construction Supervision of the Proposed Taxiway "N" (November).***

The selected Consultant who shall be screened and evaluated by the MIAA Prequalification, Evaluation and Award Committee (MIAA-PEAC) in accordance with procedures of the NEDA Guidelines on the Procurement of Consulting Services for Government Projects (Implementing Rules and Regulations of Executive Order No. 164), shall be responsible in the preparation of detailed engineering design, preparation of necessary bidding documents, assistance in bidding and construction supervision during construction. It is a must that the Consultant has extensive experience in systematic development of an airport including airfield pavement design, airport operation aspects and infrastructure works, airfield lighting and navigational aspects that can be verified.

Consultants who wish to offer their services are requested to submit an official transmittal letter/statement together with their duly accomplished and notarized prequalification statements, as provided under Appendix A of the NEDA Guidelines, not later than August 5, 2002 at the Pavements and Grounds Division, MIAA Engineering Building, MIA Road, Pasay City during official business hours only. Consultant's Prequalification Forms may also be secured from the Pavements and Grounds Division Office from July 25-31, 2002 upon presentation of this advertisement and official letter of intent. Interested foreign consultants with extensive experience in the type of service and duly registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission may associate themselves with legitimate Filipino Consultants and must have proper authorization to practice their profession locally with appropriate Philippine professional regulatory agencies.

(Sgd.) **ELPIDIO L. MENDOZA**
Chairman
MIAA-PEAC

(PDI--July 23 & 29, 2002)

**Department of Agrarian Reform
Adjudication Board (DARAB)**
Annex Building, DAR Central Office Compound, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City

NOTICE OF VACANCY

The DAR Adjudication Board (DARAB) is still accepting applicants for the position of Provincial Agrarian Reform Adjudicators (SG-27)

Qualifications:

- Must be a lawyer of good standing
- Must have been engaged in the practice of law for at least two (2) years, preferably with experience in litigation and with good background in agrarian reform laws
- Must have eligibility under R.A. 1080
- Must be computer literate

Requirements:

- Personal Data Sheet Form 212 with 2x2 ID picture (2 pcs.)
- Service Record
- Certificate of Last Employment
- NBI, Ombudsman, Sandiganbayan and CSC Clearances

Applicants must submit their letters of application together with these requirements, not later than 9 August 2002, to the OIC-Executive Director, DARAB Secretariat, DAR, Quezon City.

Qualified applicants may choose the following venues for the written exam/interview on **August 17, 2002** (8:00 AM - 5:00 PM):

LUZON - CHRD DAR Central Office, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City
VISAYAS - DAR Regional Office 7, Escario Street, Capitol, Cebu City
MINDANAO - DAR Regional Office 10, Macanhan Carmen, Cagayan de Oro City

---

WANTED IMMEDIATELY
DEAN COLLEGE OF NURSING

REQMS.
1. Male or Female
2. Registered Nurse
3. Graduate:
    Master of Arts - Nursing
    Master of Science - Nursing

Report immediately with Credentials:

**Dr. Gloria D. Lacson Medical Center
Castellano, San Leonardo, Nueva Ecija
Fax 044-4862432 Tel. No. 044-4862919**

CLARK DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
Clark Special Economic Zone
Clark Field, Pampanga

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

Clark Development Corporation (CDC) through its Pre-qualification, Bid, and Awards Committee invites interested Companies for the:

SITE REMEDIATION AND CLEANUP PROJECT
CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE

The Contractor/Bidder who will be allowed to participate in the bidding of this project must be recognized under Philippine Laws.

Interested parties may submit pre-qualification requirements to the Office of the PBAC Chairman, Building 2125, E. Quirino Street, CSEZ, Clark Field, Pampanga, not later than **August 20, 2002.**

Terms of Reference (TORs) are available for issuance to interested Contractors/Bidders at the above cited address upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00) each.

Clark Development Corporation hereby reserves the right to reject any or all bids, as well as to waive any defect or formality in such bids, and to accept such bids as may be considered most advantageous to the corporation. CDC does not guarantee that an award to this project will be made.

All inquiries and letters shall be addressed to:

THE PBAC CHAIRMAN
Office of the VP-AOG
Clark Development Corporation
Building 2125, E. Quirino Street
CSEZ, Clark Field, Pampanga

(Sgd.) **DOUGLAS B. YBALLE**
PBAC for Services - Chairman
Clark Development Corporation

(PDI - July 29 & August 5, 2002)

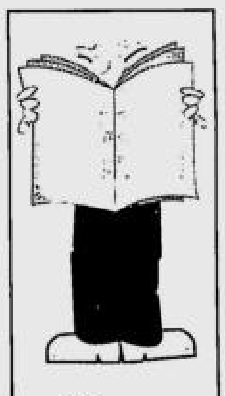
PNOC - Energy Development Corporation
PNOC Energy Companies Bldg., Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, 1201 Makati City, Philippines
P.O. Box 2102 MCPO Tel. No. 893-6001/1320

INVITATION FOR BIDS

1. PNOC - Energy Development Corporation (hereinafter referred to as PNOC-EDC) has received an ODA loan from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (hereinafter referred to as JBIC) in the amount of 14.46 Billion Yen towards the cost of the Northern Negros Geothermal Project and intends to apply a portion of the proceeds of the loan to payments under the contract for Tubular Inspection Services. Disbursement of an ODA Loan by JBIC will be subject, in all respects, to the terms and conditions of the Loan Agreement, including the disbursement procedures and the "Guidelines for Procurement under JBIC ODA Loans". No party other than PNOC-EDC shall derive any rights from the Loan Agreement or have any claim to loan proceeds. The above Loan Agreement will cover only a part of the project cost. As for the remaining portion, PNOC-EDC will take appropriate measures for finance.
2. JBIC requires that bidders and contractors, as well as PNOC-EDC, under contracts funded with JBIC ODA Loans and other Japanese ODA, observe the highest standard of ethics during the procurement and execution of such contracts. In pursuance of this policy, JBIC:
    (a) will reject a proposal for award if it determines that the bidder recommended for award has engaged in corrupt or fraudulent practices in competing for the contract in question;
    (b) will recognize a contractor as ineligible, for a period determined by JBIC, to be awarded a contract funded with JBIC ODA Loans if it at any time determines that the contractor has engaged in corrupt or fraudulent practices in competing for, or in executing, another contract funded with JBIC ODA Loans or other Japanese ODA.
3. The PNOC-Energy Development Corporation (PNOC-EDC) now invites sealed bids from eligibile bidders for the Year 2003 Drilling Tubular Inspection Services under **Project No. EDC 02-120.**
4. Interested bidders may obtain further information from and inspect the bid documents at the Contracts Administration Group, PNOC-Energy Development Corporation, Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila, Philippines, Telephone No. (632) 893-6001, Fax No. (632) 8401461 starting **July 16, 2002.**
5. The complete set of bid documents may be purchased by any interested eligible Bidder on the submission of written application to the above and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00), Philippine Currency or Fifty US Dollars (US$50) in case of foreign bidders to defray courier expenses.
6. For the purpose of clarifying issues, a pre-bid conference will be held at **PNOC-EDC Conference Room, Ground Floor, Bldg. V, at 2:00 p.m. on August 7, 2002.**
7. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in the amount of **Philippine Pesos Eighty Two Thousand Nine Hundred Forty One (P82,941.00)** or an equivalent amount in a fully convertible currency and must be delivered to the above office **on or before 2:00 p.m. of August 29, 2002.** Provided that, PNOC-EDC, in order to determine the sufficiency of the bid security amount, shall convert all bid security amounts to Philippine Pesos at the exchange rate established by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas 15 days prior to the date of bid opening.
8. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives who choose to attend at **2:00 p.m. of August 29, 2002** at the Contracts Administration Group, Conference Room, Ground Floor PNOC-EDC Bldg. V.
9. The estimated date of Award is on **October 25, 2002.**

(Sgd.) **SERGIO A. F. APOSTOL**
Chairman and President/CEO

(PDI - July 29, 2002)



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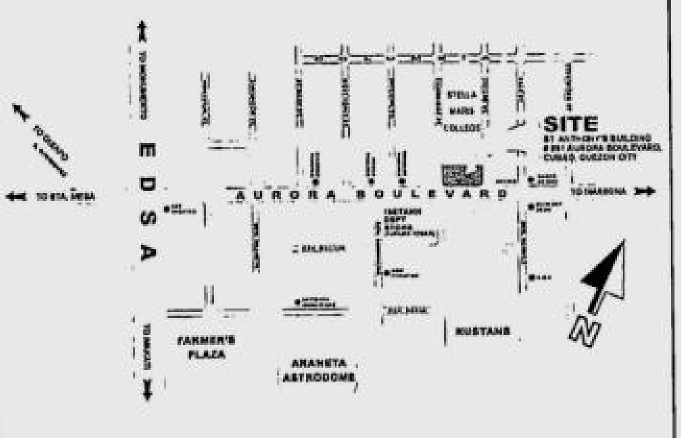

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Energy Center, Merritt Road
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila
Telephone 8931320 ext. 5131 Fax 8401461

INVITATION TO BID

The PNOC - Energy Development Corporation (PNOC-EDC) invites interested accredited or prequalified contractors to submit sealed bids for the project:

REPAIR OF SEPARATOR VESSEL 230 AND FABRICATION OF ELLIPSOIDAL HEAD FOR SEPARATOR VESSEL 220 at T1PF, LEYTE under Bid/Project No. EDC 02-139

Bid documents may be secured from the Contractors Administration Group (c/o Raymond Sison) starting **July 29, 2002;** 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday thru Friday upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00).

For purposes of clarification, a pre-bid meeting will be held on **August 12, 2002;** 2:30 p.m. at PNOC-EDC's Conference Room, Ground Floor, Bldg. V at the above address.

Sealed bids in two (2) sets shall be received by the Contracts Administration Group at the above address not later than 2:00 p.m. of **August 27, 2002** and then to be publicly opened immediately thereafter.

PNOC-EDC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any informality therein, to accept such bids or to award any part of the work to any bidder whose bid is considered most advantageous to PNOC-EDC.

(Sgd.) **ESTER R. GUERZON**
Manager, Operations
Services Division

(PDI - July 29, 2002)

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Energy Center, Merritt Road
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila
Telephone 8931320 ext. 5131 Fax 8401461

INVITATION FOR PREQUALIFICATION/ ELIGIBILITY AND BIDDING

The PNOC - Energy Development Corporation (PNOC-EDC) invites Contractors classified by and registered with the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) as IAC Medium Sub-Category A in General Building - Building and Industrial Plant to apply for prequalification/eligibility and if subsequently found eligible, to bid for the project:

SNGPF RB-1 REFURBISHMENT WORK, PAL-1 REPAIR of PIPE SUPPORTS, PHASE II & STEAM TRAP/DRAIN LINE CONDENSATE COLLECTION SYSTEM under Bid/Project No. EDC 02-152

The work calls for the supply of labor, supervision, materials, equipment, tools, consumables, and other services necessary for the repair of damaged pipe supports and the installation of steam trap/drain line condensate collection system at PNOC-EDC's Southern Negros Geothermal Production Field at Ticala, Valencia, Negros Oriental.

The Prequalification/eligibility forms may be secured from the Contracts Administration Group (c/o Raymond Sison) starting **July 30, 2002**, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday upon payment of a non-refundable fee of One Hundred Pesos (P100.00).

The prequalification/eligibility documents must be submitted to the Contracts Administration Group not later than 5:00 p.m. of **August 14, 2002.**

Bid documents shall be issued to eligible Contractors starting **September 2, 2002** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of One Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00)

The pre-bid conference and site inspection for said project shall be announced later.

Sealed bids in three (3) sets shall be received by the Contracts Administration Group at the above address not later than 2:00 p.m. of **October 1, 2002** and then to be publicly opened immediately thereafter.

PNOC - EDC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any informality therein, to accept such bids or to award any part of the work to any bidder whose bid is considered most advantageous to PNOC - EDC.

(Sgd.) **ESTER R. GUERZON**
Manager, Operations
Services Division

(PDI - July 29, 2002)

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In Loving Memory

on the 8th Death Anniversary of

Lily De Las Alas Padilla

on July 29, 2002

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be offered today at 12:00 noon, ALPADI, Antipolo and at the following churches.

Sacred Heart Parish, Kamuning	5:15 a.m.
Sta. Cruz Parish	5:30 a.m.; 8:00 a.m.
Mary the Queen Church, Greenhills	6:00 a.m.
Shrine of Our Lady of Manaoag	6:00 a.m.
Nuestra Señora de Gracia, Guadalupe	6:00 p.m.
St. James the Greater, Ayala, Alabang	6:30 a.m.
Santuario de San Jose, Greenhills	6:15 p.m.
Minor Basilica of the Black Nazarene, Quiapo	7:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m.
St. John the Baptist, Pinaglabanan, San Juan	6:30 a.m.
Our Lady of Carmel	6:00 a.m.; 6:00 p.m.
Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park	6:00 p.m.
St. Francis Parish, Shaw Boulevard	6:00 a.m.
Shrine of Mary Queen of Peace, Our Lady of Edsa	7:00 p.m.
Christ the King, Green Meadows	6:00 p.m.
St. Andrew Parish, Bel Air	6:30 p.m.
Basilica San Martin Tours, Taal	5:30 a.m.
St. Jerome Emiliani, St. Susana Parish, Ayala Alabang	6:00 a.m.
Benedictine Abbey, Alabang Hills	6:30 p.m.
Sta. Maria Stella Orientis - CRC	6:00 p.m.
Nuestra Señora de Guia Parish	6:00 a.m.
St. Peter & Paul Parish	7:00 a.m.
Parish of the Holy Sacrifice, UP	6:00 a.m.
Sta. Maria Dela Strada Parish	6:00 a.m.
Ateneo Law School Rockwell Center	6:00 p.m.
Immaculate Concepcion Parish, Antipolo	8:00 a.m.

Her children request relatives, friends and pious readers to please remember her in their prayers.

"For it is in dying that we are born to Eternal life."

CATALINA TUAZON VICTOR

of Pasig City

Peacefully joined her Creator on July 27, 2002
at the age of 71.

She is survived by her husband **Justice Luis L. Victor**; children **Citas** and **Chi, Liza** and **Bunny, Lito** and **Lulie, Jerry** and **Lally, Lily** and **Masoy**, and **Jojo** and **Sigrid**; grandchildren; brothers **Julian** and **Emerito**; sisters **Ruperta, Flor, Apolonia** and sister **Mary Elena, SPC**.

We request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Arlington East The Garden Chapels, C. Raymundo Avenue corner Mercedes Avenue, Pasig City.

Interment will be on Thursday, August 1, 2002 at Pasig Catholic Cemetery, Pasig City.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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MESSAGE OF THANKS
DEATH ANNIVERSARY
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"You will forever be in our hearts, Mommy"

✝ ANGELINA CRUZ CALILAP

of Bagong Ilog, Pasig City

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord on July 27, 2002 at the age of 79.

Her loving husband **Peping**; children and children-in-law **Danny & Joyce, Mariz & Tony, Judith & Arnold**; brother and sister **Emil & Leby**; grandchildren **Daphne, Christine** and **Arjude** and other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Arlington East, The Garden Chapels, 1354 C. Raymundo Avenue, corner Mercedes Avenue, San Miguel, Pasig City.

Interment will be on July 31, 2002 at Evergreen Memorial Garden, Pasig City.

In Loving Memory

on the
First Death Anniversary
of our beloved

SOCORRO H. MATA MADARANG

who joined her Creator on July 29, 2001

The family requests relatives and friends to remember her in prayer. Masses will be offered today for her eternal repose of her soul at the following churches:

ST. WILLIAMS CATHEDRAL *Laoag City, Ilocos Norte*	5:00 PM
ST. AGUSTINE PARISH *Baliuag, Bulacan*	5:30 PM
ST. CATHERINE OF SIENNA *Vallejo, California*	7:00 AM
ST. ALPHONSUS MARY DE LIGOURI *Magallanes Village*	7:00 AM
ST. ANDREW THE APOSTLE PARISH *Reposo St., Bel Air II*	6:30 AM 6:30 PM
ST. JOHN BOSCO PARISH *Pasay Road, Makati*	7:30 AM 12:15 PM
ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER PARISH *Palanan, Makati*	6:00 AM 7:00 AM 6:00 PM
NATIONAL SHRINE OF THE SACRED HEART *Dao St., SAV, Makati*	7:00 AM 12:15 PM
SANTUARIO DE SAN ANTONIO PARISH *Forbes Park, Makati*	6:15 AM 12:15 PM
HEART OF JESUS and MARY PARISH *West Triangle Home, Quezon City*	6:30 AM
HOLY EUCHARIST PARISH *Moonwalk Village, Parañaque*	6:00 AM
PRESENTATION OF THE CHILD JESUS PARISH *Phase III BF Homes, Parañaque*	6:45 PM

"We never lose those we give to God"

Second Death Anniversary

REV. FR. ODILARDO "Efren" J. ARCEO

(November 14, 1945 - July 29, 2000)

Basilica of Immaculate Concepcion, Batangas City	5:30 AM
Chapel of Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Manila	5:30 AM
St. Benedict College Chapel, Alabang	6:15 AM
Blessed Sacrament Chapel, Novaliches, Quezon City	6:15 AM
Stella Maris College Chapel, Cubao, Quezon City	6:15 AM
St. Benedict College Chapel, Alabang	6:30 AM
St. Jude Archdiocesan Shrine, Manila	6:30 AM
Good Shepherd Convent, Quezon City	6:30 AM
Benedictine Abbey Church, Mendiola, Manila	6:30 AM
Blessed Sacrament Chapel, Sunnyside, Quezon City	6:45 AM
Our Lady of Pillar Parish, Sta. Cruz, Manila	8:00 AM
Ateneo de Manila University Chapel, Loyola, Quezon City	11:30 AM
St. Scholastica College Chapel, Manila	12:00 Noon
Immaculate Concepcion Church, Cubao, Quezon City	6:00 PM
Nativity of Our Lord Parish, Cubao, Quezon City	6:30 PM
St. Euphrasia Church, Granada Hills, California, U.S.A.	6:30 AM
St. John Baptist De La Salle Church, Granada Hills, CA, U.S.A.	7:30 AM
Our Lady of Sun Valley Church, West Hills, California, U.S.A.	8:15 AM
Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Northridge, California, U.S.A.	9:00 AM
St. John Eudes, Chatsworth, California, U.S.A.	12:30 PM

The family requests relatives, friends and pious readers to continuously remember him in your prayers.

"Let us keep the flame of remembrance burning in our hearts."

"...absent from the body, to be present with the Lord."

Our Dearly Beloved

REMEDIOS "Meding" ANGELES OLETA

Ret. OIC Bureau of Records Management

Peacefully joined her Creator on 27 July 2002
at the age of 87.

Her son **EDDIE**; and daughter-in-law **CHIT**; grandchildren and great grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at Chapel C of the Loyola Memorial Chapels in Guadalupe, Makati City.

Daily Masses will be offered at 7:00 every evening. Funeral Mass will be on Wednesday, 31 July 2002, 11:00 a.m. followed by Cremation Services at the Loyola Memorial Chapels Crematorium after the Mass.

"Come to Me,
all you who are weary and burdened,
and I will give you rest."
Matthew 11:28

Our Dearly Beloved Mommy and Mamang

Mila Tomeldan Bernal

Peacefully joined our Creator on July 27, 2002
at the age of 45.

Her loving children **Isabel, Richard, Deng, Jerome**; son-in-law **Toning**; grandson **James Matthew**; mother **Marina**; brothers and sisters **Joe, Boy, Inday, Neneng, Boyet, Edong, Saria, David**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal rest of her soul.

Her body lies in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City and will be transferred to Binalonan, Pangasinan.

Interment will be announced later.

JOSE MA. CONSTANCIO "CHITO" JABSON DEL ROSARIO

of Pasig City

September 19, 1953 - July 25, 2002.

His beloved parents **Dr. Romualdo D. Del Rosario** (†) and **Dr. Encarnacion V. Jabson - Del Rosario**; sisters **Ma. Juanita** and **Patrick, Ma. Josefina, Ma. Lourdes**, and **Ma. Melinda**; brothers **Dr. Quirino** and **Romualdo Jr.** (†); nephews and nieces **April, Jade, Joyce, Jean, Armi, Pom-Pom, King, Candy** and **Alyssa**; his other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Arlington East Chapels, Pasig City. Interment will be on Tuesday, July 30, 2002, at the Pasig Municipal Cemetery after the 1:00 p.m. Mass at the Immaculate Conception Parish Church.

In Loving Memory
on the Birthday Anniversary of

EDUARDO "NED" GONZALES RAMOS

July 29, 1948

Holy Masses will be offered in the following churches on July 29, 2002

SANCTUARIO DE SAN ANTONIO McKinley Road, Forbes Park, Makati City	6:00 PM
SANCTUARIO DE SAN JOSE Greenhills, Mandaluyong City	6:15 PM
MARY THE QUEEN PARISH Greenhills, Mandaluyong City	6:00 PM
ARCHDIOCESAN SHRINE OF THE DIVINE MERCY Maysilo Street, Mandaluyong City	6:00 AM
SAN ROQUE PARISH CHURCH San Roque Street, Barangka, Mandaluyong City	6:00 AM
PARISH OF SAN FELIPE NERI Mandaluyong City	6:00 PM

Request the pious readers, relatives and friends to say a prayer in his memory
with all our love
MARITA, JET, BILLIE and Family

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones, the following establishments can help you.

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Tels 747-6599, 747-6609 • Telefax 641-1760
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243 A.B. Fernandez Ave., Dagupan City, Pangasinan;
Tels (0785) 522-3451, 522-2126, (0917) 434-9978
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1305 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City. Tel 732-0309, 732-1095
CEBU ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
Cebu Branch A.S. Fortuna Street, Bandad, Mandaue City, Cebu;
Tels 346-2543, 346-2601
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Nivel Hills, Lahug, Cebu City. Tels 231-0721; 231-3192
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Camus Ext. cor. J. Abad Santos, Davao City. Tels. (082) 227-1201; 227-1258
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FUNERARIA FILIPINAS
865 J.P. Rizal St., Poblacion, Makati City. Tels. 890-3550; 899-8191
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Poblacion, San Miguel, Bulacan 3011;
Tels. (044) 764-0261; 678-0266; (0917) 895-0603
FUNERARIA SAMSON
145 Bayan Luma, Imus, Cavite. Tels. (046) 471-3375; 471-2675
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Tels. (DL) 845-2341 to 42, (TL) 845-2334 to 38 loc. 110/112
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Mandalagan, Bacolod City. Tel 433-7132
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Sucat Branch: 8187 Dr. A. Santos Ave., Sucat, Parañaque City
Tels 826-1376, 826-0682 (0915) 712-1220
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Forbes Park, Makati City. Tel Nos 843-6838/30, Fax No 843-9223
SANTUARIO DE SAN JOSE PARISH
East Greenhills, Mandaluyong City. Telefax 724-4139, 725-2044
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Magallanes Village, Makati City. Tels 852-8228, 852-7284
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Tels 749-3079, 781-1772
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Tels. 831-3797, 844-7846, 813-1001, 845-4836
WELINGTON FUNERAL SERVICES
1511 Gen. Luna St., Paco, Manila. Tels 522-8846, 522-9438, 400-5394

People, Events & Products

Aries Espinosa, Editor

aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Lipa welcomes new bishop

ON July 10, Rev. Buenaventura M. Famadico DD, Titular Bishop of Urusi, assumed his new post as the third Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Lipa and Pastor of the Parish of St. Martin of Tours (Taal). Rev. Gaudencio B. Rosales DD, Archbishop of Lipa, Batangas Governor Hermilando I. Mandanas, Lipa City Vice Mayor Fernando Manguera, and the clergy and the religious of the Archdiocese of Lipa led the faithful in welcoming the new Bishop. Bishops and priests from other dioceses in the Ecclesiastical Province of Lipa were also present.

The Pontifical Mass of Welcome was held at 9:30 a.m. at the Metropolitan Cathedral of San Sebastian, Lipa City, and the Installation Rites as Parish Priest of Taal was held at the Basilica of St. Martin of Tours.

Bishop Famadico was ordained to the episcopate on June 19 by Rev. Antonio Franco DD, Apostolic Nuncio to the Philippines in touching Rites at the Sto. Niño Cathedral, Calapan, Oriental Mindoro where he served as its parish priest for the last four years. He was designated by the Holy Father, Pope John Paul II, last April 6 to take the place of Rev. Salvador Q. Quizon DD, who retired as Auxiliary Bishop at 77, after 53 years in the ministry. He served the Archdiocese of Lipa as Auxiliary Bishop since 1979 and as a priest since 1949.

Rev. Famadico, the first to be ordained bishop from the Apostolic Vicariate of Calapan, was accompanied by the clergy, religious and lay faithful led by their bishop, Rev. Warlito I. Cajandig DD.

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ADDLIFE
CoQ10

eGobyerno 2002
INFORMATION
ENTRANCE

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QUALITY Awards
Handog Kay Itay

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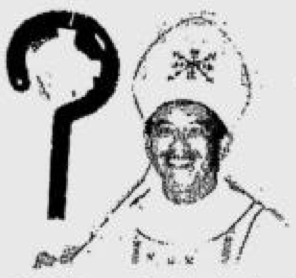
People, Events & Products

Aries Espinosa, Editor

aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Lipa welcomes new bishop



ON July 10, Rev. Buenaventura M. Famadico DD, Titular Bishop of Urusi, assumed his new post as the third Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Lipa and Pastor of the Parish of St. Martin of Tours (Taal). Rev. Gaudencio B. Rosales DD, Archbishop of Lipa, Batangas Governor Hermilando I. Mandanas, Lipa City Vice Mayor Fernando Manguera, and the clergy and the religious of the Archdiocese of Lipa led the faithful in welcoming the new Bishop. Bishops and priests from other dioceses in the Ecclesiastical Province of Lipa were also present.

The Pontifical Mass of Welcome was held at 9:30 a.m. at the Metropolitan Cathedral of San Sebastian, Lipa City, and the Installation Rites as Parish Priest of Taal was held at the Basilica of St. Martin of Tours.

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Maggi
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NCQA
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ADDLIFE
CoQ10

INFOTECH

Editor **Leo Magno**

Interconnection of telcos faces rough waters: PLDT

Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva
Q7.net

WHILE Malacañang is drafting a new executive order to hasten interconnection among local telecommunication companies, dominant carrier Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT) is saying that the government might face some difficulty implementing its plans.

"While mandatory interconnection is required for all telcos, there are practical considerations that make it physically impossible for some telcos to have direct interconnections," Alfredo B. Carrera, PLDT vice president for carrier business relations, told Q7.net.

"Some (telcos) are riding on the facilities of other telcos, like PLDT, just to be interconnected with other telcos."

He also disagreed with the government's claim that most telephone firms as well as mobile phone operators are not yet fully interconnected.

The executive suggested that the government, particularly the National Telecommunication Commission, should address the disparity in access charges with cellular operators, which he considers the "thorniest problem" in the issue of interconnection.

Carrera said that existing access charge arrangements remain unequal, such that a fixed operator like PLDT is paying a cellular phone operator more than what the cellular phone operator is paying the fixed operators who are using the same infrastructure.

He said that the current access arrangement results in what he dubbed as "discriminatory pricing to subscribers." This means that subscribers have to pay more if a call originates from a fixed line to a cellular phone subscriber than a call coming from a cellular subscriber to a fixed line user.

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo ordered last week the drafting of a new executive order that would hasten interconnection of services among local telecommunication firms. This move was in reaction to reported delays in interconnection among local telephone firms, which she said have resulted in expensive telecom services in the country.

Chief presidential legal counsel Avelino Cruz Jr. was eventually asked to draft a new directive that would effectively amend Executive Order 59 issued by former President Fidel V. Ramos back in 1993.

Apart from breaking up the PLDT monopoly (then chaired by businessman Antonio Cojuangco), EO 59 was created to eventually lower subscription rates for consumers.

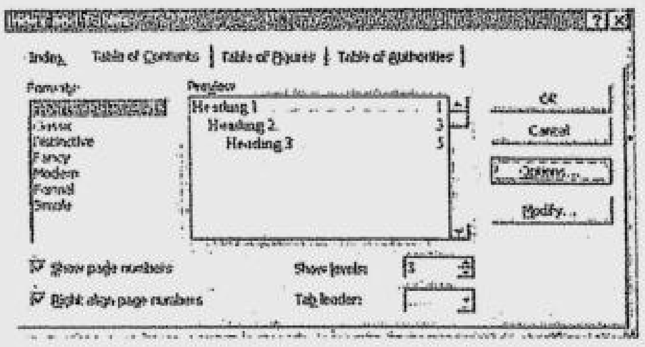
Malacañang indicated that the new executive order "would enhance the existing policy on interconnection to ensure telecommunication services of public telecommunication entities (PTEs) can access the services as well as the subscribers of other PTEs at acceptable quality of service and at reasonable costs."

The new directive would also underscore the need to provide an "effective and measurable time frame to effect and implement interconnection between and among PTEs to facilitate the negotiations of interconnection agreements . . . and the need to ensure that interconnection will not result in unfair and unreasonable pricing arrangements to the detriment of the consumers."

The drafting of the orders came on the eve of the President's second State of the Nation Address (Sona).

In her first Sona, the President had pushed for the development of high-speed connectivity "as the way for Smart and Globe to properly interconnect."

A draft of the new executive order was presented to Ms Macapagal during a Cabinet meeting last week.



Creating Table of Contents in MS Word

By Jerry Liao

POWERTIPS

MS Word comes with a function that can help you easily create Table of Contents (TOC). Here's how:

1. Make sure that the headings you want to include as part of your TOC uses styles. (The Style dropdown menu is located beside the Font dropdown menu.)

2. After changing your headings, put the insertion point in your document where you want the TOC to appear.

3. Click Insert / Index and Tables and select the Table of Contents tabs.

4. Select the Format you want, you may also include the page number and right align it.

5. You can further customize your TOC by clicking the Options button.

6. Click OK.

For more tips, visit http:// www.brainshare.com.ph

We would like to invite our readers to join The Powertips Group. Simply register online at www.brainshare.com.ph/register.htm and receive free tips via email. For your comments, questions and suggestions send your e-mails to infochat@mozcom.com

'Biometric' laptops now in RP

By Charles E. Buban

TAIWANESE computer firm ASUSTek Computer Inc. has announced the availability of a new series of biometrically enabled laptops in the Philippine market that are bundled with advanced biometric fingerprint security features.

The ASUS B1 notebook series is seen as a revolutionary machine that takes advantage of TruePrint Technology, reportedly the most accurate and convenient authentication technology in the market today. It is the first fingerprint identification technology capable of being used by everyone, under virtually any condition.

The fingerprint reading ability of TruePrint scans beyond the surface layer of the skin to the live layer, where the "true" fingerprint resides. Thus, fingerprint identification is not affected by common skin surface conditions such as dry, worn, callused, oily, or dirty skin which, in some cases can affect a fingerprint sensor's ability to acquire accurate fingerprint images.

The ASUS B1 series integrates the biometric fingerprint authentication in both the PC BIOS as well as the Windows operating system. Used in conjunction with an integrated smart card device that allows users to make secure online transactions, the laptop provides the ultimate in personal asset as well as data security.

Apart from its security features, the ASUS B1 series is also bundled with standard desktop features, from its large 15" screen and advanced Pentium III GHz processor, to its digital SPDIF out, wireless networking and security applications.

The ASUS B1 series also offers modular drive bays that allow a variety of swappable configuration options for FDD, HDD, CD-ROM, DVD-ROM, CD-RW, or a "COMBO" drive. A dual battery support allows over six hours of continual use before recharging is needed.

South African firm to roll out GPRS services in local market

By Joel D. Pinaroc

A MOBILE applications developer based in South Africa announced that it has signed a partnership pact with a Philippine company to deliver its mobile solutions in the country using general packet radio service or GPRS.

Executives of Teraitech Ltd disclosed that the company will be targeting large, local companies in the banking, manufacturing and telecommunications sectors, as well as government agencies, for its mobile applications which will be marketed by systems integrator Total Information Management.

"We have currently 150 mobile applications, most of which are for personal digital assistants (PDAs), that are now available in the Philippines," said Wim Booyse, director for international business development at Teraitech.

Some of the solutions include online banking, customer relationship management, stock control order taking, content delivery, e-prescriptions and hospital management, among others.

While admitting that short messaging system or SMS is the recognized killer application in the country today, Booyse said using GPRS as the technology to deliver more complex mobile applications has huge potentials especially for local companies utilizing a mobile workforce.

"While SMS has many uses, I don't think corporate information, like a mobile customer relationship management application, for instance, cannot be viewed via your cellular phone," said Booyse.

He also added that it is technically impossible for a cellular phone to allow a user to access, say, the back-end of a corporate computer system such as the database.

Booyse further said that a GPRS-powered infrastructure is also not dependent on coverage areas, like SMS.

GPRS uses "packets" of data delivered on "as-needed" basis. The emerging standard also promises an "always on" connection to the network, and data transmission speeds of 56 up to 114 Kbps.

Teraitech's local partner, Total Information Management, is currently "negotiating" with one of the two largest mobile service providers in the Philippines, which are offering GPRS services.

"We can't disclose it yet, but we are talking with one of the providers who will provide us the GPRS infrastructure," said Salvador Aque, senior vice president of TIM.

Aque also said that the perceived high costs of GPRS services in the Philippines, will not affect the rollout of these mobile services, since the initial market target of TIM and Teraitech are large corporate entities.

"Some companies are spending P2,000 to P3,000 on cellular phone calls per user. I don't see the high costs of GPRS affecting our business," Aque said.

Aque said TIM will be targeting around 15,000 individual users of its mobile solutions in the Philippines before the year ends.

Tekken: Still larger than life at any size

By Joey G. Alarilla

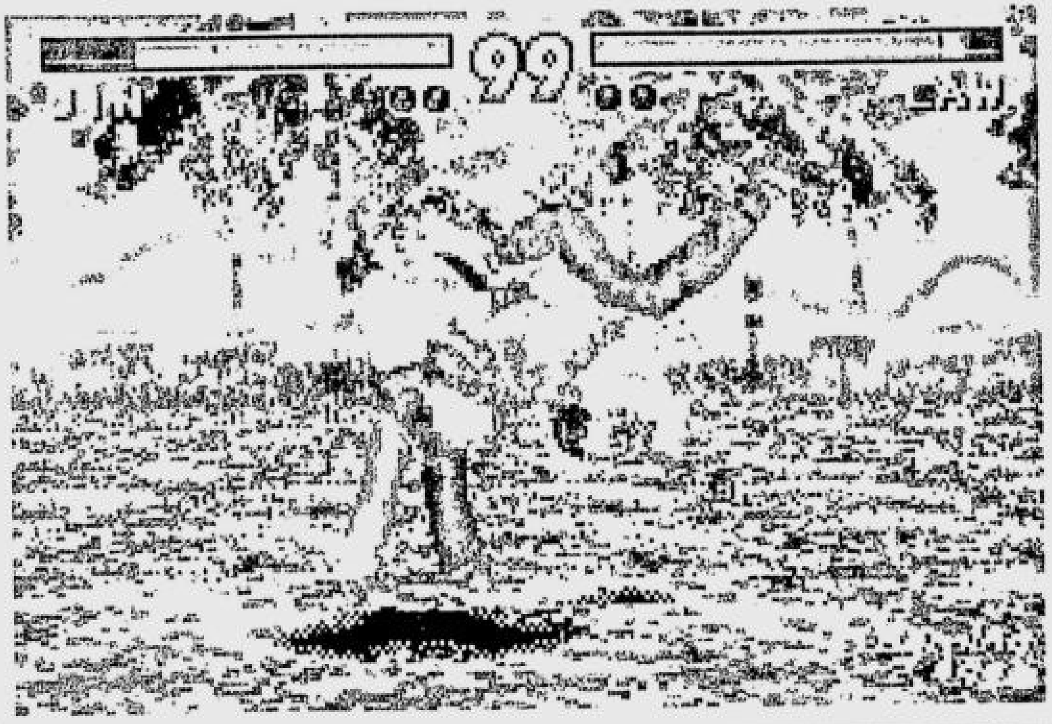
FORGET your previous notions about handheld fighting games. Tekken Advance's graphics and gameplay will knock you off your feet long before your opponent does. That is, unless you really suck at fighting.

Welcome to Tekken on the Game Boy Advance, the first foray of Namco's butt-kicking franchise on a portable. Sure it's a port of the PlayStation's Tekken 3, but what a port and what a game.

Somehow, the developers were able to 'create' Tekken 3 almost perfectly, with jaw-dropping pixel graphics, smooth animation and a pseudo-3D graphics overall feel. You duke it out in rotating arenas and even have the ability to dodge opponents laterally, so don't be surprised if you find yourself wondering if this is really just a 2D game.

Amazingly, Tekken Advance also offers a wide range of fighting moves. So how was Namco able to squeeze in the different cool combos in the GBA? For one, the right shoulder button allows you to grab, making Tekken Advance a three-button game—one button for all punches and another for all kicks. It's maneuvering the up, down, back and forward controls that allows you to pull off the combos and special moves that have made Tekken a classic. Screenshots really can't do justice to the experience of playing these characters and seeing them respond fluidly to the controls.

We review this game on the GameBoy



GAME BOY ADVANCE
TEKKEN ADVANCE

While those of us who are used to the console or arcade game might be thrown off at first by the difference in timing, the controls are highly intuitive. Heck, columnist Joel Pinaroc will be delirious with joy since his favorite Paul Phoenix special move is right here.

On the downside, Tekken Advance doesn't offer any of the surreal full-motion video cutscenes that we've grown to love about Tekken, but how, even with the GBA's 32-bit processing power, that would have been too much too ask. Also, you can only unlock one character, Heihachi, who's the final boss in the Arcade mode.

You have nine players to choose from at the start: Law, Hwoarang, Xiaoyu, Nina, Jin, Gunjack, Yoshimitsu, Paul and King. To unlock Heihachi, beat the Arcade mode using all these nine characters. To unlock the Team Battle mode, beat the Arcade mode using Heihachi.

Personally, my main gripe is that my favorite characters didn't make it to this first portable foray, namely Lei, Bryan and—OK, I admit it—Ogre. Still, on the bright side, at least we don't have to endure such characters as Panda and that farty-pooper, Gon, hehe.

The lack of other characters you can unlock does detract from the replay value, plus when you finish the game, that's it—no celebration, no video, no whatever. Still, what's amazing is the amount of stuff that made it to Tekken Advance, including different modes such as Tekken Tag, Time Attack, Survival and Team Battle.

After beating the game several times in Normal and Hard modes, I admit that my main pastime now when I play Tekken Advance is to see how many wins I can rack up in Survival mode. To those who aren't familiar with this mode, it just means you keep fighting opponents in one-round battles until you drop dead, with your health meter only recovering a bit from damage every time you fight a new opponent. For a day or two, Hwoarang reigned supreme with 16 wins, but now Law's on top of the hill with 19.

Of course, nothing would beat the thrill of duking it out with another player in Versus mode, so if you have the GBA link cable and a friend who has a copy of Tekken Advance, you can link your GBAs and see who really has an Iron Fist.

SSS, NSO take another step to automating operations

By Joel D. Pinaroc

DESPITE its financial woes, the Social Security System is expected to upgrade its existing infrastructure in its efforts to deliver its services to members via the Internet, although the date of implementation and the actual rollout of the new system remain under wraps.

The National Statistics Office meanwhile has announced completion of its computerized hubs in key regional areas.

According to an executive of software giant Oracle Corp., the database software firm will be one of the technology partners of the agency on this undertaking.

Details of the project have yet to be disclosed to the public, the executive said.

One technology that is expected to be used by the SSS is extensible markup language or XML, an emerging standard allowing information and data to be distributed to almost any device over the Internet.

XML is similar to hypertext markup language or HTML, the set of mark-up codes used for webpages for the Internet, although XML is seen to be more flexible.

The current computer "service" of the SSS is limited to online inquiry, a relatively outdated electronic data interchange system, and an automated telephone system for members.

While the SSS website allows members to view information about the SSS, online services such as loans applications, knowing the status of loans, and determining eligibility, among other transactions, have yet to become standard.

An XML-powered system is expected to enhance the delivery of SSS services and will allow SSS members to transact directly to the SSS network anywhere via the Internet.

Meanwhile, the NSO has announced the availability of its "request anywhere" service in the regions via Census Serbilis Centers, as part of the agency's 12-year multiphase civil registry system computerization project with software firm Unisys Corp.

These centers, according to the NSO, are computerized hubs, which allow individuals to request and acquire pertinent civil data such as birth records, death certificates, marriage certificates and civil registry documents, among others.

The NSO has reportedly established similar centers in the regions, particularly Baguio, Tuguegarao, San Fernando in Pampanga, San Fernando in La Union, Cebu, Iloilo, Tacloban and in the key cities of Butuan, Cagayan de Oro, Davao and Zamboanga, in Mindanao.

According to NSO officials, these centers now cover birth documents of an estimated 50.6 million Filipinos out of the 75 million Filipinos in the country. The NSO further expects that birth record conversions from 1945 to 1999, endorsements and foreign births, will be completed by November this year.

The computerization of the SSS and NSO is highly anticipated, since the two agencies currently handle massive amounts of data that is accessed and requested on a daily basis.

SAP reports revenue decline for Q2 2002

SAP AG (NYSE: SAP) has announced its results for the second quarter and half year ending June 30, 2002, which saw the software company achieving revenues of 1.78 billion euros, a 4 percent decline over the same period last year.

Second quarter 2002 operating income, before charges for stock-based compensation programs (STAR and LTI) and acquisition related costs, ambunted to 324 million euros

Respective operating margin was 18 percent (2001: 23 percent). Earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization ("EBITDA") were 77 million euros, compared to 450 million euros in the same period in 2001.

Net income for the second quarter 2002 excluding acquisition charges and other impairment costs of minority investments declined 25 percent to 175 million euros and respective earnings per share for the quarter were 0.56 euro.

In the quarter, revenues in the Europe, Middle East and Africa region increased one percent, 976 million euros with revenues in the Asia-Pacific region down 5 percent to 209 million euros.

Revenues in the Americas region declined 12 percent to 593 million euros; at constant currency rates, however, revenues in the Americas would have declined 4 percent. Product revenues in the second quarter were 1.09 billion euros. License revenues were 496 million euros.

Consulting and training revenues were 545 million euros and 115 million euros, respectively. The number of full-time equivalent employees at June 30, 2002, was 29,354, an increase of one percent since March 31, 2002.

In the second quarter of 2002, software revenues related to mySAP CRM (Customer Relationship Management) reached roughly 101 million euros, down 3 percent from 2001.

MySAP SCM (Supply Chain Management) related revenues totaled around 104 million euros, down 31 percent from 2001 figures of 150 million euros.

These figures include revenues from designated solution contracts, as well as figures from integrated solution contracts, which are allocated based on usage surveys.

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General Electric

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ULTRALAMP

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Ultralamp Gold*	ML 11B-230 11w WW & CDL ML 15B-230 15w WW & CDL

* Pending approval of qualification renewal

OSRAM

Dulux EL Economy	8w ECO Interna & CW 12w ECO Interna, CW & DL 16w ECO (2-tube) Interna & DL 21w ECO Interna, CW & DL
Dulux EL Sensor Plus	15w Interna, CW & DL
Dulux EL Long Life	5w LL Interna 7w LL Interna & CW 11w LL Interna, CW & DL 15w LL Interna, CW & DL 20w LL Interna, CW & DL 23w LL Interna, CW & DL
Dulux EE*	10w E27 Interna 13w E27 Interna 17w E27 Interna

* Dulux EE models still to be imported

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SKT3*	20 EA Trimax WW 23 EA Trimax WW
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* Models still to be imported

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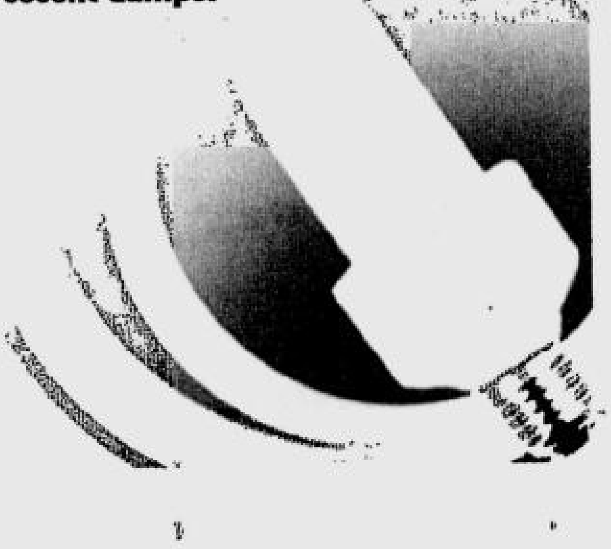

BIR seen missing July target

COLLECTIONS of the Bureau of Internal Revenue have deteriorated further in July, slipping below the agency's P38-billion target for the month by as much as P11 billion, according to government sources.

The BIR's shortfall in June, when the bureau targeted collections of about P31.9 billion, stood at P2.8 billion.

The government's economic managers have been hoping to cut the BIR's collections shortfall in July, but the initial numbers for the month are likely to disappoint them.

A ranking government source said the Development Budget Coordinating Committee would likely raise the government's budget deficit target for the year—set at P130 billion—by at least P10 billion.

The BIR incurred a shortfall of P33.46 billion in the first six months of the year, collecting some P189.09 billion against a target of P222.55 billion.

"The BIR collections are back to the April levels, and it is so disappointing," a senior government official said on condition of anonymity.

"With this trend," he said, "it would be stupid to expect to meet the deficit target. Definitely, P130 billion is no longer achievable but not P160 billion. I think a P140-billion deficit target is realistic."

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said in a statement on Friday that the government remained committed to its deficit target of P130 billion.

On Friday, another ranking government source said the country's budget deficit for 2002 might rise to P163 billion if no major spending cuts were made before the year ends.

Based on government projections, 2002 revenues were seen to amount to P590.268 billion while expenditures would be at P753.27 billion, resulting in a budget deficit of P163 billion, the source said. *Clarissa S. Batino*

DOE, PSALM may miss Sept. deadline to review IPP deals

ENERGY Secretary Vincent Perez Jr. has said the energy department, along with the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp., may fail to meet their September deadline to review further 22 of its contracts with independent power producers.

"We are asking the IPPs to give us more data," Perez said in a news briefing. "The yearlong review (made by the Malacañang-appointed committee) seem to be not enough."

He said the second phase of the review had yet to start as the Department of Energy-PSALM technical committee was still learning the ropes.

"We got involved in the matter just two weeks ago. We still have a lot to learn," he said.

The DOE and PSALM were assigned 22 IPP contracts with legal and financial issues for "further study and possible renegotiation."

An official from one of the power firms, who asked not to be named, said in a separate interview any renegotiation of the IPP contracts was not advisable.

"Our creditors would not want such changes in the contracts, which are the basis of their decision to extend financing for our projects," the source said.

But Perez said he expected and was ready for such an attitude in his talks with the IPPs.

"I have prepared certain negotiating tactics given such situations," he said. "There are ways, but I don't want to (talk about it publicly)."

In an earlier interview, Perez said the September deadline on the second phase of the IPP contracts review was "a tough target."

Perez added, "The Malacañang committee took one year to do it and I believe the National Power Corp. and the IPPs took longer, some even took for years, before they could finalize these contracts." *Ronnel W. Domingo*

Agri-based firms hindered by credit lack, corruption

POOR access to credit, rising criminality, lack of infrastructure, weak markets and corruption are stunting the growth of agriculture-based businesses, according to a recent World Bank survey.

"Problems in the rural economy are well documented and understood, but no concrete sustainable actions are being (undertaken by the government)," World Bank senior operations officer for rural development Carolina Figueroa-Geron said in a foreign donors' forum at the Department of Agriculture on Friday.

The World Bank study said there were perceptions among agriculture-based enterprises of widespread corruption and lack of transparency in the government.

These companies, it added, were also frustrated over the government's failure to help facilitate a better environment for them.

The 1997 Agricultural Farm and Modernization Law, which addresses many of the agricultural sector's problems, has only been partially implemented, the World Bank noted.

"It is clear that the agriculture sector is underperforming, the rate of job creation in rural areas is only slightly above population growth rate and rural poverty incidence is not declining and something must be done," Geron said. *Christine A. Gaylican*

BUSINESS*Monday*
Business Features Editor **Margie Quimpo-Espino**

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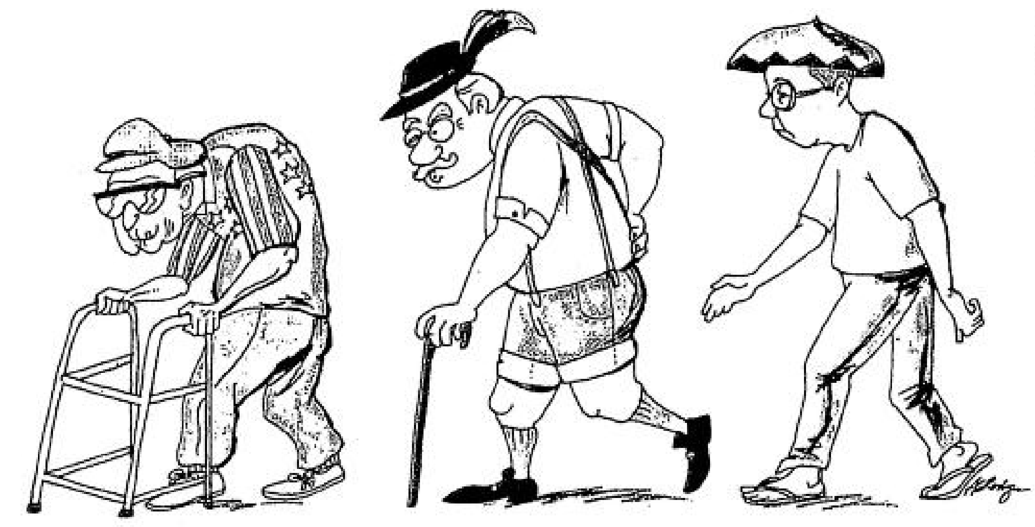
EXTREME FAMILY PLANNING

Aging population: New global threat

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao



THE PHILIPPINES may have the right idea in bringing a lot of babies into the world because the young, representing more than half of the 70-million population, would eventually pay off the retirement benefits of the generations of workers before them.

Developed countries do not have the same luxury.

The declining number of working age population to replenish the coffers of social security systems is one of the biggest problems facing the developed world, according to John J. Haley, president and chief executive officer of human resource consultancy firm Watson Wyatt Worldwide.

Haley told Business Monday in an interview during his last visit to the Philippines last month that fertility rates have fallen below "replacement" rates in every developed country, including the United States, United Kingdom, Germany, Italy, Canada and Japan.

If left unchecked, it may eventually lead to the severe lack in retirement benefits because people of working age do not contribute enough to social security funds.

According to the paper "Global Aging: The Challenge of the New Millennium," global aging "will place new burdens on workers and employers and pose difficult choices to voters and government leaders," including the Philippines.

Haley said in his presentation to local business leaders that the Philippines is faced with its own retirement issues, even if there seems to be more than enough new entrants to the labor force.

The funds of the Social Security System, which is tasked to take care of the retirement needs of employees in the private sector, were expected to run out by 2015, according to the 1999 SSS actuarial valuations.

Filipino retirees were not expected to have enough to cover for the shortfall because the Philippines is notorious for having the lowest savings rate in the region, plus, most companies do not provide adequate retirement benefits.

Certain sectors such as the agricultural and informal sectors are not even covered by the minimum retirement benefits mandated by law.

Reasons for the deteriorating SSS fund status include:

- Benefit enhancements without increase in contribution rate
- Poor participation/poor compliance with SSS laws
- Subsidized interest rates on housing and member loans
- Decreasing interest rates/investment loans, and
- Increasing life expectancy

Watson Wyatt said in its study that increasing life expectancy and falling fertility rates were the two fundamental demographic forces leading to global aging. The first increases the number of the old while the second reduces the relative number of the young.

"The fiscal and societal implications of these demographic trends are compounded by other forces: earlier retirement, pay-as-you-go (unfunded) public pension systems and the growing cost of health care."

The report showed that fertility rate worldwide has fallen from 5 to 2.7 over the past 30 years, and as low as 1.6 in developed countries. As recently as the early 1960s, almost every developed country was at or above the 2.1 replacement rate needed to maintain the balance between the old and the new.

Today, every developed country is below it—some far below it. In Japan, the fertility rate is 1.5, in Germany, 1.3 and 1.2 in Italy. The Philippines is more than double at 2.7, but then many of the workers are not even part of the pension fund system.

Haley said the SSS in the Philippines is looking at alternatives to bring the fund back to life, including the increase in the contribution rate by between 16 and 22 percent to cover for annual pension increases and for the fund to remain viable.

Otherwise, the SSS would have no choice but to cut back on retirement benefits and this is the problem faced by all governments worldwide.

"Sooner or later, most countries will have to make much deeper reductions in public retirement benefits than politicians or voters are ready to contemplate. At the same time, they will have to grapple with a bigger question: Who will replace the benefits that are cut," the report said.

The report said that developed countries are looking for ways to meet the needs of tomorrow's elderly without overburdening the economy or overtaxing the young.

1. **Strengthen foundations for economic growth.** Reforms to a range of policies that inhibit capital and labor productivity—from taxes to pensions to employment to financial markets—are increasingly essential to the maintenance of social guarantees in the 21st century.

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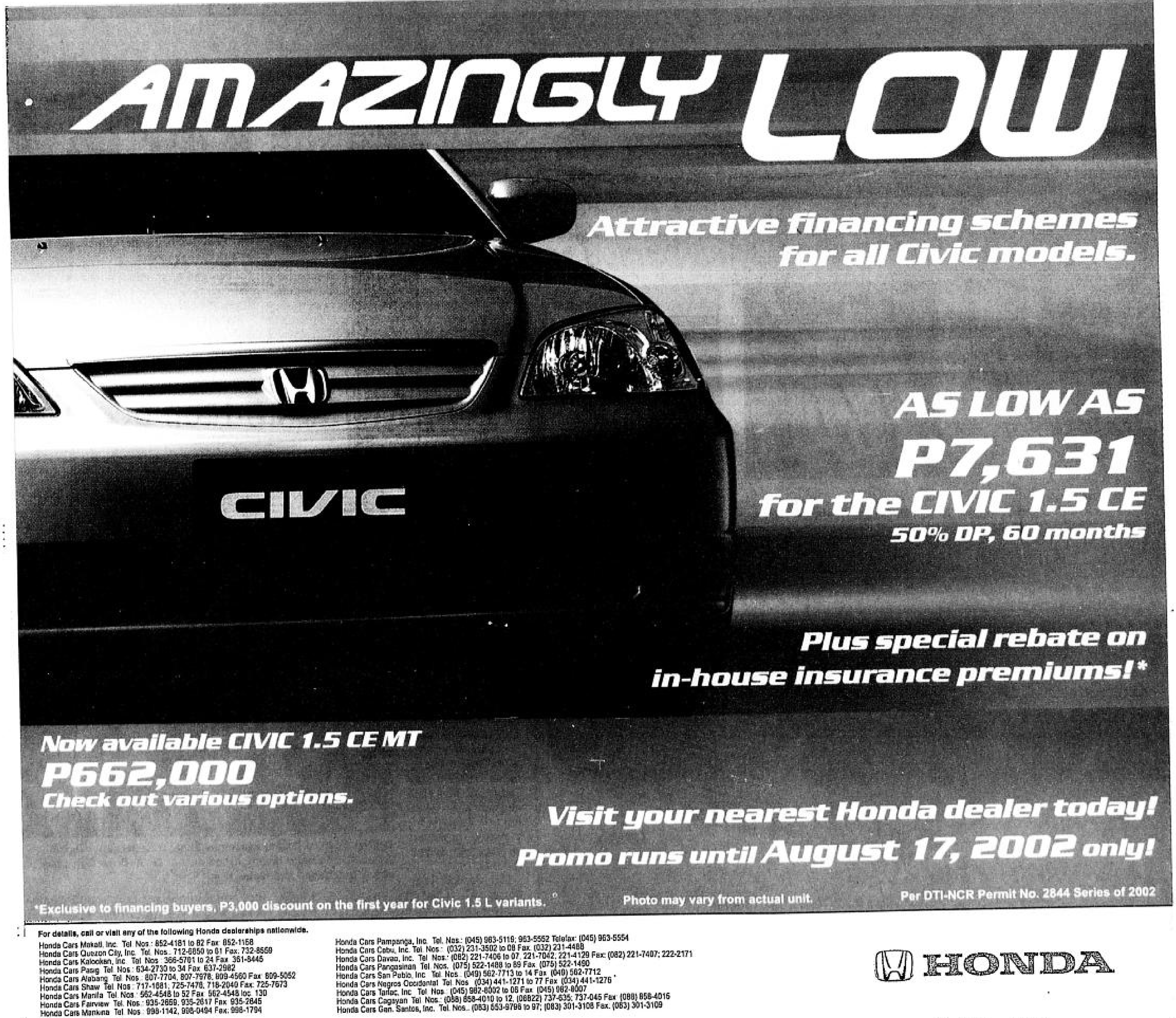
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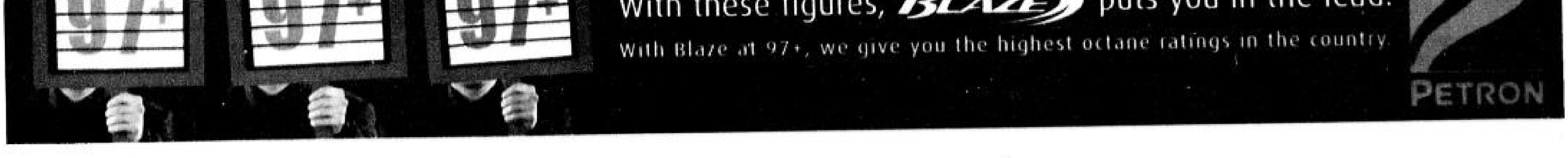
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Challenges of technology in education

(First of two parts)

MAPPING THE FUTURE

Ofelia M. Caragüe

ALLOW me to start by quoting the words of Dr. A.W. Bates (1997) in his article entitled "Restructuring the University for Technological Change." He said: "Many universities are making substantial investments in new technologies for teaching purposes. The increasing ease of use and improved presentational and interactive features of technologies such as the World Wide Web are leading many academics to use technology for teaching for the first time in a significant manner. However, although there has been widespread adoption of new technologies for teaching in the last few years, they have yet to bring about major changes in the way teaching is organized and delivered. Without such changes, though, technology-based teaching will remain a marginalized activity, while at the same time leading to increased unit costs. For technological change to be effective, it usually needs to be accompanied by major structural and organizational changes for its full potential to be realized."

The developments in the Internet, World Wide Web in particular, and developments in multimedia technology, are resulting in new approaches to designing and developing teaching and learning in higher education. Some of the characteristics of such developments can be described according to Bates (1999) as follows:

- Increased flexibility and access to learning, resulting in new markets being reached, and in particular, the lifelong learner market
- The use of multimedia to develop psycho-motor and intellectual skills development, including problem-solving and decision making
- The use of Internet technologies to develop knowledge management and collaborative learning skills.
- The use of Internet to develop global, multi-cultural courses and programs.

Why use technology?

Almost all people from different sectors of society offer a number of different reasons to justify the use of technology for teaching and learning. Here are four of the most frequent reasons given for using technology (there are probably many more):

- To improve access to education and training.
- To improve the quality of learning.
- To reduce the costs of education.
- To improve the cost-effectiveness of education.

Different people in different positions tend to place different emphasis on each of these rationales. For instance, what has really set fire to many university professors is the possibility of improving the quality of learning through the use of multimedia.

The same professor though who is a startling innovator in the use of technology for teaching can at the same time violently oppose any suggestion that more students might be served by the institution through technology: more means worse—or at least more work for the faculty.

Other professors are fired up by the idea that the entire world can access their ideas, their research, their wisdom through the World Wide Web—a passion to widen access to their teaching. This is not always accompanied though by a similar passion to improve the quality of their teaching, as can be witnessed very easily by surfing their Web pages.

Labor replacement

Meanwhile, some politicians and business people see technology simply as a replacement for labor, and anticipate that technology when applied properly will reduce the costs of education. Unfortunately, this is to misunderstand the nature of the educational process. While applying technology can reduce labor costs, unless done carefully it can also lead to a large decline in the quality of learning, which in turn will eventually lead to a less skilled workforce.

Lastly others look to technology to improve the cost-effectiveness of education. This is not the same as reducing costs. The argument is that for the same amount expenditure learning effectiveness can be increased, or more students can be taught to the same standard for the same level of investment.

While then technology is unlikely to reduce substantially the costs of education without a parallel loss in quality, the wise use of technology can simultaneously widen access, improve the quality of teaching and improve the cost-effectiveness of education. That is not a bad goal to strive for.

Roles of institutions

The critical roles of an electronic educational institution built to meet the learning needs of the 21st century will be as follows:

- To provide information on education and training needs and opportunities;
- To provide quality control;
- To provide accreditation, through independent assessment of learning;
- To develop coherent curricula, where appropriate;
- To broker and validate courses and materials from other education and training suppliers;
- To provide the service that will make the use of communications to import and export multimedia learning materials easy and user-friendly;
- To network learners and instructors;
- To create high-quality educational multimedia materials in an easily accessible form;
- To conduct research into education and training needs;
- To apply new technologies, as they develop, to education and training, and to evaluate their use

Many of the instructors or tutors that are used will not "belong" or work for the educational institution; many will be independent contractors, or working full-time in a knowledge-based industry, or working for another educational institution.

Nor will learners, necessarily be registered with that institution, in the sense of taking a or any courses. The institution is primarily a facilitator of learning. In the example of Sue and Wayne, all the educational institution may do is bill, and collect and deliver payment, regarding fees and royalties, to and from Sue and Wayne, the owners of the software, and possibly the telecoms companies (plus a service charge). In other cases, it may offer a full program to groups of students with its own instructors and multimedia materials, leading to its own credential. In others, it will be like a multimedia reference library, with learners just accessing the information they need. It may provide the technology infrastructure for a system of mixed mode institutions that register their own students, but share the technical facilities of the electronic institution. It could be quite a commercial organization, collecting fees for many of its services, where this is appropriate. ***(To be continued)***

(The author is a member of the Management Association of the Philippines and president of Polytechnic University of the Philippines. Feedback at mapsec@globenet.com.ph.)

FINANCE Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho congratulates SCB as chief executive officer Annemarie Durbin looks on.

Strictly for the ultra elite

STANDARD Chartered Bank recently hosted a cocktails party for its priority banking customers who packed The Peninsula's Conservatory to get a glimpse of the showcase on its new incentives program for the ultra elite.

Leading the formal-attired evening crowd were special guest of honor Finance Secretary Jose Isidro N. Camacho who came with wife Kim, country representative of Sotheby's and daughter Bea, a Harvard student.

COCKTAILS with Monetary Board member Antonio Alindogan, Standard Chartered CEO Annemarie Durbin, PBCom president and CEO Isidro Alcantara, and BSP Deputy Governor Alberto Reyes.

Other guests of honor were Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Deputy Governor Alberto Reyes and Monetary Board member Antonino Alindogan.

A formal recognition of the three industry leaders at the start of the evening's celebration cited their outstanding contribution to international priority banking.

Country chief executive officer Annemarie Durbin and the entire senior management of Standard Chartered Bank Philippines had their hands full in entertaining close to a thousand guests. Wealth management general manager Tony Robles, cards and personal loans general manager Ajay Kanwal, country operating officer Matthew Yeung, corporations and institutions senior vice president Dev Sarker, and human relations senior vice president Beth Morales lent the important occasion a show of force.

The new priority banking proposition boasts of unique services, including personal financial planning for investments and financing, transactions for a wide range of products including Power Earner, Standard Chartered Visa Electron, Phone Banking, Mobile Banking, and Off-shore Banking. Special privileges offered are wide ranging—from SCB Visa Gold card to preferential rates, and great access to travel, dining, home, fashion, health/fitness pleasures.

Priority banking was introduced in the Philippines in 1995, which has steadily gained a significant membership base. There are about 60 Standard Chartered priority banking centers worldwide.

BSP Deputy Governor Alberto Reyes with Consumer Banking honchos Ajay Kanwal, general manager for cards and personal loans; Owen Maramag, head of marketing and Tony Robles, general manager for wealth management.

Feting friends and top people

FIRST Guarantee Life Assurance Co. Inc. (First Life) held its traditional awards night in early July with a grand dinner for agents, policyholders, brokers and corporate guests at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel.

Senate Majority Leader Loren Legarda-Leviste and Deputy Insurance Commissioner Vida Chiong headed the guests who graced the event. Singapore-based Andrew Goh, one of Asia's most successful motivational and management trainers and speaker for First Life's mid-year agency conference, inspired the crowd with his talk on leadership and excellence.

The Gawad Kagitingan is First Life's unique award-giving body launched in 1993 to distinguish the top company agents in terms of productivity and persistency in new business. The limelight this year is focused on the 10 lady career underwriters receiving the Gawad Kagitingan distinction.

First Life president and CEO Peter Coyiuto took pride in the feat of the company producers as he emphasized in his speech that First Life "owes its success in wedding agents to the concept of life insurance to the fact that we do not recruit from other companies."

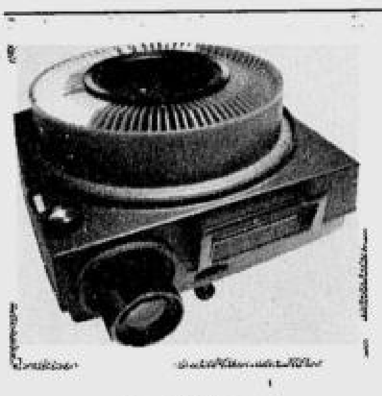
The executive magnified the ideal of life insurance selling in First Life's vision—to be the country's leading life insurance company in quality of people, products and services, growth and innovation, adhering to ethical standards in the way we operate our business.

In her keynote speech, Senator Legarda espoused the First Life principle as she said "a great company not only cultivates individual initiative but promotes competence and a strong ethical sense in its ranks." Aligning the sentiment to nation-building, Legarda stressed that the challenge to Filipino leaders is "to demonstrate strong initiative, strong competence and strong ethical responsibility for the prospect of our freedom and the progress of our country."

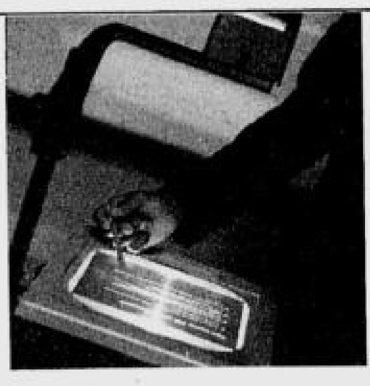
A departure from past Gawad nights, this year's event became a multifold gathering as it also brought the varied international distinction received by First Life's underwriters. Special mention went to the lady awardees who qualified to the Million Dollar Round Table (MDRT), the elite association of the world's best sales professionals in the life insurance business. Round Table membership is an exclusive honor that is achieved only by the Top 6 percent career underwriters from 66 nations and territories, representing about 475 life insurance companies globally.

FIRST Life chief executives Peter Coyiuto and Jaime Santiago flank Sen. Loren Legarda and Deputy Commissioner Vida Chiong.

ELENA Coyiuto (right) welcomes Senator Legarda while top Asean speaker and distinguished author D. Andrew Goh talks about excellence and leadership.

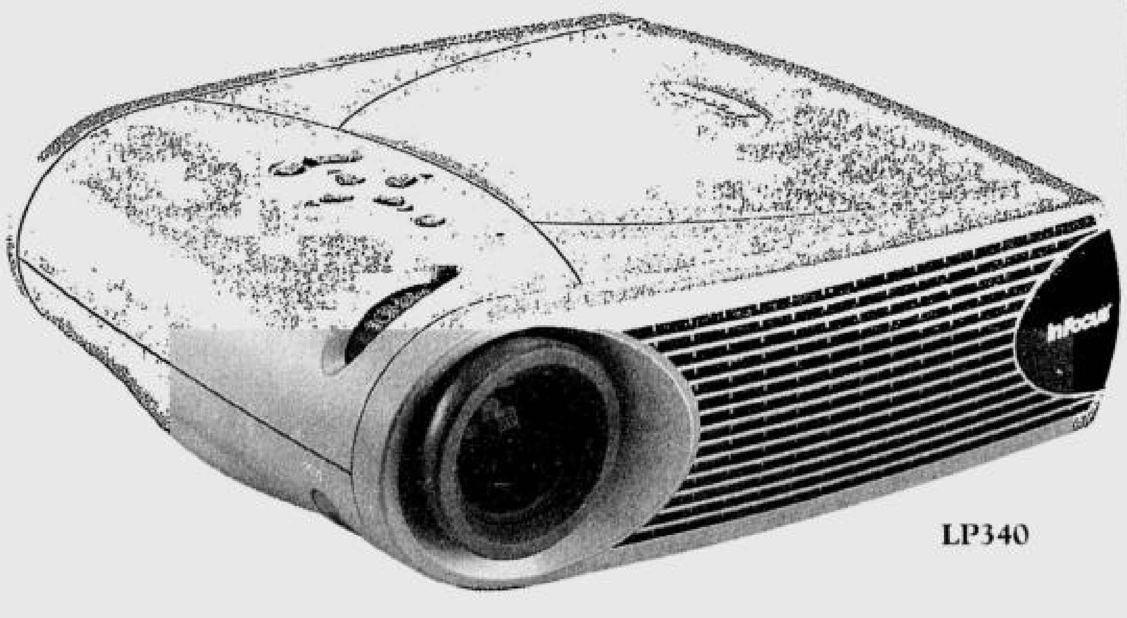


Adiós



Sayonara

Good-bye



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Aging population: New global threat

From page C1

2. **Encourage longer worklives.** The most direct way to achieve large fiscal and economic savings without hurting the living standards of the elderly is to encourage longer worklives.

3. **Encourage more work from the non-elderly—either by persuading working-age citizens to work more or by expanding immigration.** Like longer worklives, this strategy would increase the size of the economy and tax base.

4. **Raise more numerous and more productive children.** This strategy would spread the elder dependency burden over a larger and more affluent rising generation.

5. **Strengthen family bonds** Many countries like the United States would be looking at policies that encourage and help family members to care for each other.

6. **Require people to save more throughout their worklives.** Britain and Australia, along with Chile and Singapore, are showing the world how to move toward funded retirement savings. Besides longer worklives, it is also the only strategy that does not impose a direct tax or indirect economic and familial burden on future generations.

It goes without saying that it would be difficult for societies including the Philippines to implement any of these strategies. However, the report said that there is no choice but to implement policies today, or face a future with no benefits.

Practice . . .

From page C4

for private equity, private placement," he adds.

As such, the local management formed the company and raised capital by selling minority shares to new partners.

To date, ATR-Kim Eng Capital is 57 percent owned by ATR Holdings (which is in turn 75 percent owned by the management and 25 percent by other partners) and 43 percent bySingapore-based Kim Eng Holdings. Among the investors which became minority partners in ATR Holdings were the Gokongweis, Sorianos, Marsman-Drysdale and the TLC Beatrice group of Loida Nicolas Lewis, considered the most successful Filipina in the United States.

Tordesillas and company chair Ramon Arnaiz (who account for the T and A in the company name) handle the overall affairs of the company. Randy Roxas (who accounts for the R) takes care of ATR-Kim Eng Securities, assisted by Philip Hagedorn. A fourth local partner, Diosdado Macapagal, likewise came in later.

As a deal-maker, Tordesillas also says it was important to handle transactions with outmost integrity.

"When we do transactions, we add value to the transactions and we always aim for excellence," he said.

Sizable transactions

During the last eighteen months, ATR-Kim Eng has completed many sizeable investment banking transactions amounting to over P20 billion. Finance Asia said this demonstrated "the breadth and depth of its product offering which stems from the group's professional creativity and wealth of experience in both local and international financial markets."

These transactions include the asset disposition and fund-raising program of the Bases Conversion Development Authority, the corporate restructuring of cash-strapped investment bank East Asia Capital Corp., several financing deals for Filinvest Development Corp., the initial public offering of Cebu-based Salcon Power Corp. It was also a participating underwriter in the P957-million IPO for Highlands Prime Leisure Properties Inc. and the P1.8-billion IPO of Banco de Oro Universal Bank.

The third management principle—teamwork—ensures that each part of the organization is accountable and plays a significant contribution. As such, no single person can claim sole credit for the company's successes.

"We are more of a team. We don't really subscribe to the notion of having a superstar," he says.

Staff loyalty

The management has also developed strong loyalty among the staff because it has proven that it will give them stability. Tordesillas notes that from its establishment in June 1998, ATR-Kim Eng has never fired any person in the organization. Except for new recruits, he notes the company's staff was still 90-percent intact from the days of Peregrine Capital.

"During the difficult times, we led the way by taking a 40-percent salary cut rather than lay off people," he says.

ATR-Kim Eng management has likewise ensured that on the financial side, the company will never rely on borrowings to cover its requirements. Tordesillas said a lot of companies which were hit hardest by the Asian currency turmoil were those which had a high gearing.

"We practice what we preach. We believe in heavy reliance on equity rather than debt to finance our expansion requirements," he says.

Strong team

Tordesillas, an engineering graduate of De La Salle University, worked as a researcher in the Asian Institute of Management for a year, then went to Harvard to get his MBA, before returning to the financial market. He worked with Bank of Commerce for five years, with the Ayala group for three years and with Citicorp for seven years. Prior to joining Peregrine Capital, he was based in Hong Kong and it was there where he was recruited to run the local operations.

With its strong management team, Tordesillas said ATR-Kim Eng Capital would continue its expansion. In fact, he says the backdoor listing on the PSE was the opening salvo to further acquisitions.

"If it's listed, it's easier to have discussions for future acquisitions," he said, noting that the group would like to include mutual funds and venture capital in its portfolio.

Its backdoor listing vehicle Philtread is raising its authorized capital to P1.3 billion from P300 million following a rights offering of 500 million shares at P2 per share. The major shareholders of ATR-Kim-Eng—ATR Holdings and Kim Eng Holdings—will subscribe to the rights offering and end up with 70-percent control of Philtread while the public will control the remaining 30 percent.

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BUSINESS*Monday*

'Practice what you preach; use equity to expand'

By Doris C. Dumlao

MANAGEMENT STYLES

ATR-KIM Eng Capital Partners Inc., which was formed in 1998 through the management buyout of the local unit of Hong Kong-based Peregrine Capital, has not only survived the Asian currency shake-out but has built itself as a formidable investment.

Recently chosen by the Finance Asia magazine as the "Best Local Investment Bank in the Philippines," ATR-Kim Eng Capital has gone a long way since the local management took over the reins of Peregrine Capital Philippines Inc., whose parent firm collapsed in Hong Kong due to huge losses in other markets.

Now the largest non-bank investment house in the country, ATR-Kim Eng Capital also has interests in stock brokerage, money brokerage, pre-need, money remittances and courier businesses.

It likewise ventured into life insurance last year by buying out GE Capital from GE Life Insurance Co. which has been renamed ATR Professional Life.

The investment bank, whose goal is to become a leading provider of non-bank financial services in the country, is also doing a backdoor listing on the Philippine Stock Exchange this year through Philtread Holdings Corp.

TORDESILLAS

In an interview with Business Monday, ATR-Kim Eng Capital president Manuel Tordesillas explains that the company's management principles can be summarized into five tenets: professionalism; integrity; teamwork; equitable leadership and low gearing.

"It's a unique feature of the group that majority owners are professionals and not any single company. Most of us have masters degrees, worked with multinationals and developed capability to handle the business," Tordesillas says.

When Peregrine Capital collapsed in 1998, the local management decided it would like to stay in business as there was enough investment banking opportunities despite the difficult regional environment at that time.

"A lot of Philippine companies have encountered difficulties. There was demand in financial advisory, for companies raising financing, doing restructuring or deciding to shed excess fats. There's also opportunity in M&A (merger and acquisition). The market was closed to IPO (initial public offering) but there was demand

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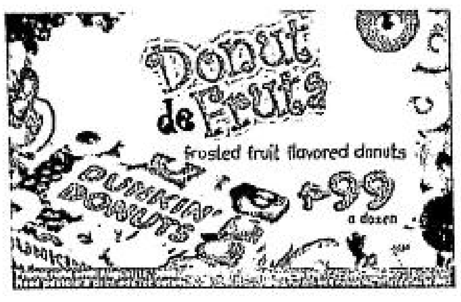

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'MUNTING TINIG'

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Story on page D2

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15 PM Dimsum: Taro puff, Salted dumplings, Sugared egg balls
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Aug 02 AM Special class: (9:30AM - 12:00NN) Winter melon with dried scallops•Steamed stuffed mushrooms. Double boiled fish maw with frog legs, Steamed spare ribs with lily flower and white fungus
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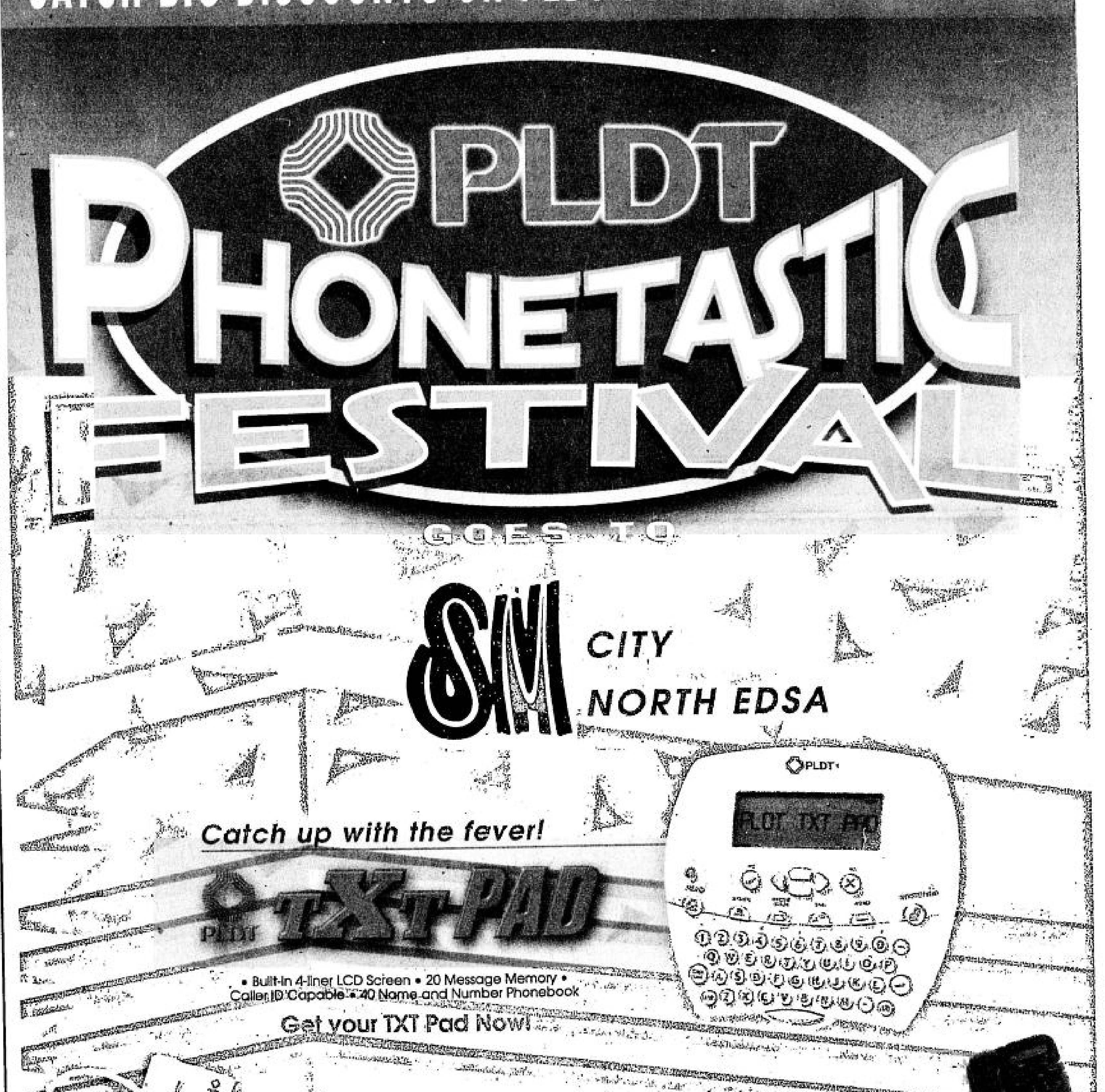

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Splendiferous offering of world cinema

By Constantino C. Tejero

The whole world is watching as Tikoy Aguiluz comes up with the country's biggest film festival yet

THE HOMEGROWN international film festival Cinemanila has reverted to its original schedule, at this time of the year. Having found a permanent venue in Makati City last December, it holds its fourth edition in Greenbelt 1 cinemas on Aug. 1-15, with extra screenings at the Cultural Center of the Philippines and the UP Film Center.

Festival director Amable "Tikoy" Aguiluz says they have rescheduled the filmfest as they don't want to get caught in the rush and glut of events in December. "There's the ad congress, the Metro Manila filmfest, and then it's super-traffic."

(Let's just cross our fingers that it won't be spoiled by the typhoons, as it had been in its early editions. Carefully avoiding man-made problems like the super-traffic in December, the organizers may have unwittingly put themselves at the mercy of an act of God.)

Aguiluz also sees the advantage of the new theater venue compared to the former in Mandaluyong City. "We now have a bigger audience. Makati has an expat community, and there are the advertising people."

Other than that, the demographic of festival attendees is virtually unchanged. These are people 17-28 years old. They come mostly from Quezon City, so most probably they're students.

"I see the same faces, more or less," says Aguiluz.

YON Fan's "Peony Pavilion" is one of the must-see films.

It is by sheer force of personality, ambition and aspiration that a filmfest of this scope can even go on for four years. For one, to hold such an event would need millions of pesos, and it will take five editions to get any revenue.

Aguiluz estimates that the Pusan filmfest in South Korea spends $3 million, the Singapore filmfest $2 million, the Hong Kong filmfest $1.5 million, while Cinemanila spends only about P25 million.

AMOS Kollek's "Fast Food Fast Women"

" Film festivals have replaced the art-house circuit," he says. "There are 600 film festivals all over the world now, and we have to compete with them."

Perennial problem

To draw crowds, the organizers have lowered the admission price to P75. A ticket to a Hollywood blockbuster screened at world-class Metro Manila theaters, such as in Greenbelt and Glorietta, would cost P80-P150.

"You need to develop a paying audience," says Aguiluz. "In film festivals abroad, the admission price is double that of a regular ticket. Here, *pinababaan pa*."

It's just as well he has found sponsors willing to support the cause of world-class cinema in the country: the City of Makati, Ayala Cinemas, Independent Cinema Association of the Philippines, Hotel InterContinental Manila, Philippine Daily inquirer, RPN 9, DHL, Yehey!

The national government also helps, but Aguiluz expects more. He hopes the Department of Tourism would lend a hand in publicity. "Secretary Richard Gordon should be the salesman of this event. But maybe he's just too busy these days."

In fact, Cinemanila's perennial problem comes from the government side. Every festival entry has to go through the Movie & Television Review & Classification Board, not to mention the Bureau of Customs, which causes so much delay.

"Every year that's our problem—always that," says Aguiluz. "Imagine, if we have 80 films for the festival, and the MTRCB would have to review one film a day, they would have to spend 80 days. *Hindi naman puwede na kami lang i-*screen *nila*. And they ask for fees *pa*. Not even in Singapore—*pinakamahigpit pa 'yan*—it doesn't give ratings to these films, because that has been done in their own countries already. It's not because these are controversial films, but to go through the process of reviewing and rating again... The bottomline is, we bring in the films."

Special features

And what films they are! How Aguiluz wishes he could get such gems as Mohsen Makhmalbaf's "Journey to Kandahar," Fruit Chan's "Durian Durian," Gaspar Noé's "Irreversible." Anyway, this promises to be the biggest edition of Cinemanila yet, with over 100 films, including features, documentaries, shorts and digital films, from 35 countries, including Russia, Estonia, Luxembourg.

To open the event is Tom Tykwer's "Heaven." The festival centerpiece is Ashutosh Gowariker's "Lagaan," a nominee for this year's Oscar Best Foreign-Language Film.

Seventeen full-length films will be vying for the Lino Brocka Award, the festival's Grand Prize. Our official entries for competition are Marilou Diaz Abaya's "Bagong Buwan" and Joel Lamangan's "Hubog."

There will also be competitions for shorts and documentaries, and the Ishmael Bernal Award for Alternative Cinema/Young Cinema.

Among the guests who will give talks or hold workshops: Olivier Assayas, a star director of the Young French Cinema; Rob Nilsson, winner of the Sundance Grand Prize and the Cannes Camera d'Or; Pierre-William Glenn, a cinematographer who has worked with Costa-Gavras, Claude Lelouch and Bertrand Tavernier.

Countries in Focus showcases the national cinemas of Taiwan and Singapore. Directors in Focus features the films of François Ozon and Mike de Leon. A special feature is Latin American New Cinema. The festival closes with Wong Kar-wai's "In the Mood for Love."

Must-see films

In view of the number of films to be screened in two weeks, which would be near impossible to view all for working stiffs like us, we recommend some not to be missed (aside from the opening and closing films, the festival centerpiece, and our own entries, of course): two films from Makhmalbaf, three from John Cassavetes, three from Assayas, four from Ozon, Alfonso Cuarón's "Y Tu Mamá También" (in competition), Kim Ki Duk's "Address Unknown," Hou Hsiao-hsien's "A City of Sadness" and "Goodbye, South, Goodbye," Jang Sun-woo's "Lies," Tsai Ming-liang's "What Time Is It There?" (in competition), Lelouch's "And Now... Ladies and Gentlemen," Takeshi Kitano's "Hanabi" and "Kikujiro," Ken Loach's "The Navigators," Fruit Chan's "Hollywood Hong Kong" (in competition), Joel Coen's "The Man Who Wasn't There," Zhang Yang's "Quitting," Zacharias Kunuk's "Atanarjuat the Fast Runner" (in competition), Jasmine Ng's "Eating Air," Pen-ek Ratanaruang's "Sixty-nine," Jacques Doillon's "Totally Flaky," Eric Khoo's "12 Storeys," Anders Thomas Jensen's "Flickering Lights," the Pink Eiga series, Harry Sinclair's "Topless Women Talk about Their Lives," Yon Fan's "Peony Pavilion."

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And then there are the favorites from Cinemanila's past editions. If you missed them last time, here's your second chance to see Danis Tanovic's "No Man's Land," Garin Nugruho's "Leaf on a Pillow," Walter Salles' "Central Station," Lav Diaz's "Batang West Side."

However, those are just from the list so far sent to us. We understand more are coming as the festival approaches. Film enthusiasts should start rearranging their lives now.

Gil Portes scores with anthem to education

By Lito B. Zulueta

IN GIL Portes' "Mga Munting Tinig," a young teacher and fresh graduate of education school plunges to her first assignment in a poor provincial village with the enthusiasm and idealism characteristic of neophytes.

But the conditions in the village are less than ideal. She labors under the abject perennials of the public-school system (rundown classrooms, inadequate or outdated textbooks, and poorly paid, ill-prepared, and distracted teachers). She can only conduct her lessons in between planting and harvest because the parents need their kids as extra hands in the fields.

Her decision to form the children into a choir to compete in an inter school contest brings out the antagonism of the parents and her own superior in the open. Hoping to educate a poor community, she instead is in for the education of her life.

The dilemma is real and touching. And in Portes' gentle, sociological nudging, the story becomes a test case of a young Filipino's conviction to stay in the country and make a difference in the face of the allurements of going abroad.

In the end, Melinda gives in to her mother's insistence. She comes to the United States, but not after realizing her dream choir and infusing hope in the otherwise spiritless community so used to the rote of agriculture, government neglect and communist rebel incursions.

To Toronto

For its heartfelt sentiment, "Munting Tinig" has been accepted to the Toronto International Film Festival, along with Joel Lamangan's "Hubog." Toronto official Steve Gravestock has called it Portes' finest movie so far.

YOUNG teacher Melinda (Alessandra de Rossi) beams proudly at her students.

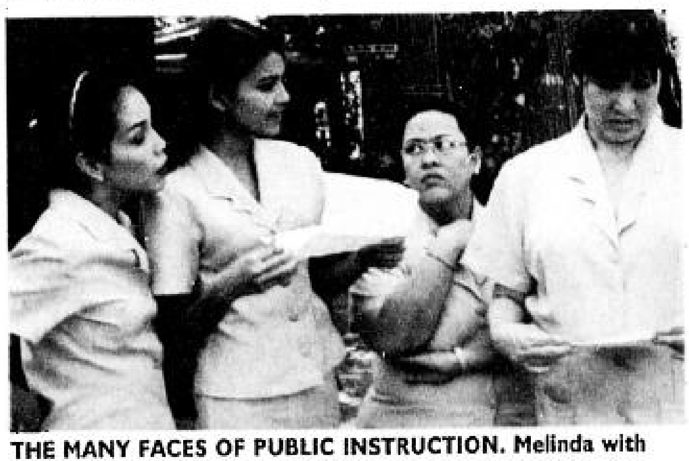
It is easy to treat "Mga Munting Tinig" as a Filipino "Sound of Music" or "Music from the Heart." But Portes' quiet realism and pellucid integrity make the movie a genuine experience. Positive and uplifting, the movie makes a resounding pitch for education that owes to Portes' developmental fire and the fact it is financed by the College Assurance Plan.

The latter should be congratulated for putting its money where its mouth is, and Portes in turn should be commended for tapping resources from the most unlikely of places to sustain his independent filmmaking. Without doubt, Portes is our most credible and committed independent filmmaker.

In subjecting his heroine (played by a more mature Alessandra de Rossi) to the vicissitudes of rural public instruction, Portes draws out the contradictions of an education system that always gets sidetracked by the problems of logistics and misses the big picture. Melinda faces the daunting task of keeping her students in school, which, however, does not have the competent instructors, the right books, and even the classrooms to merit its name.

The Philippine entry to the Toronto International Film Festival is a revealing movie about an education system that miseducates

GIL/ p.D3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Gil Portes scores with anthem to education

From page D2

THE PHILIPPINES' most committed independent filmmaker. Director Gil Portes at work

Despite the benefits of public education, the reality is that the system is saddled by its own loud claims. Education for all is a pipe dream in a government where populism is really a mask for confused priorities and a stubborn refusal to face up to failings and limitations.

Before parents who insist that school is taking their kids away from work in the fields, the teacher is left to conjure the hope that formal education affords even if she knows that the system does not really respond to the needs of the agrarian milieu.

There must be something wrong when an education system follows a school calendar that clashes with the rhythms of agriculture so that young people, who otherwise can help their parents in taming the land and making it productive, are compelled to troop to schools ostensibly to learn despite the dearth of classrooms, teachers and books.

Penalizing agriculture

The state's attempts to industrialize and modernize have come at the cost of agriculture, and nowhere is this more evident in the education system, which produces white-collar workers for industries, not agriculture. Now as then, public planning penalizes agriculture.

When asked by his cynical dad (Nanding Josef) and siblings what he would take up, Adong (Keno Agaro), one of Melinda's students, answers, "Piloto."

Obet (effectively portrayed by Pierro Rodriguez III) shares Adong's love for school and feels hostile to his father who belongs to the communist underground. He feels his dad is imperiling the family as well as his education.

Even when his mother Luz (Amy Austria) explains to him that his dad was the victim of land-grabbing, Obet persists to be educated in a system that has equipped the elite with the intellectual and financial resources to enrich themselves at the cost of the poor. Of course, Portes and co-writers, Adolf Alix and Senedy Que, will not allow Obet to be misled for long. Tragedy will open his eyes soon.

In the face of grave agrarian injustice fostered by a twisted education system, Melinda and her students dare to form a choir. This is not escapism. They do not substitute music for injustice or switch beauty for ugliness.

In their singing, they prefigure an order that will set right the deformities of the present. Their chorus represents the "small voices" of the weak and the poor taking on the mammoth inequity of the current order.

"Munting Tinig" is a small movie with a ringing message. The message is inexhaustible.

Armed with an unobtrusive camera, a plangent screenplay and a competent cast, Gil Portes provides the viewers with vigorous lessons on life. He is the ultimate teacher reining in Filipinos who have for far too long been truants of social reality.

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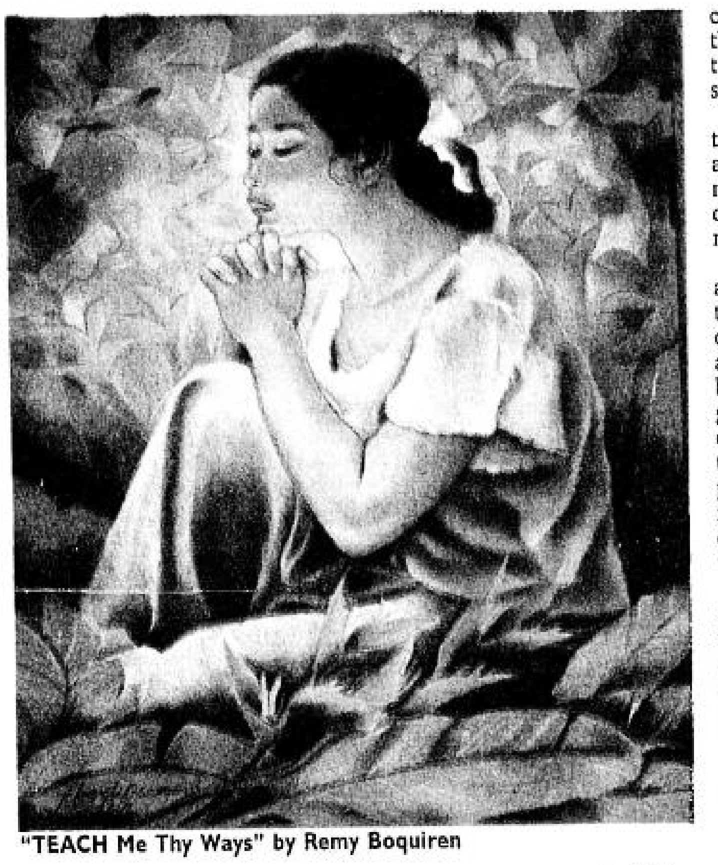
Magnificent six

By Gino Dormiendo
Contributor



"TEACH Me Thy Ways" by Remy Boquiren

SIX Filipino artists of varied persuasions and working in different media and techniques have come together for a group show in celebration of Philippine art.

The artists—Remy Boquiren, Hermes Alegre, Fatima Antonio-Baquiran, Edgar Talusan Fernandez, Caloy Gabuco and Jonathan Olazo—have each something quintes-sentially Filipino in their choice works that, to some extent, sum up the endearing qualities, not to mention the major directions, of contemporary Philippine art.

These artists, two generations apart and exploring the rich tradition, heritage and experience that define contemporary Philippine life, have achieved excellence in their art by their individual creativity, dynamism and dedication. All six are imbued with the vitality for life and art-making and, more importantly, with the vision to break new ground.

Remy Boquiren, the most senior in the group, is an acknowledged master in delineating the Filipino woman in her canvases. Her unending search for the Filipina has yielded a treasure trove of women subjects, ranging from the lowland lass to the highland maiden, with their distinctive attires and characteristic stances of work and recreation.

Boquiren's women come in various guises, dispensing their time-honored roles amid lush backdrops of trees, vegetation and rows of flowering orchards, with added glimpses of mountains, valleys and lakes.

With deft, agile brushstrokes in pastel or oil pastel, Boquiren has limned women's bodies with unique grace, capturing their swan necks, Oriental eyes and full lips, revealing the radiant beauty of the Filipina before she was commodified by the mass media, advertising and the economic diaspora.

Boquiren has preserved the physiognomy of the traditional Filipina in her works, with the usual pietistic motifs, to enhance her dignity and image. The women of Boquiren have remained unassuming, confident yet gentle in their ways, even as the world they inhabit has sadly gone to pot, itself a sad commentary on how Filipino women have been maltreated by a macho-dominated, cruelly masochistic society.

Illustrious

Fatima Antonio-Baquiran, who descended from the illustrious husband-and-wife artists, Angelito Antonio and Norma Belleza, explores the infinitesimal array of flower arrangements, throbbing with vibrant colors of life and exuding rich textures. Antonio-Baquiran has brought to the fore the wondrous beauty of nature encapsulated in those blooms yet to explode with urgent, vibrating energy.

The artist has not ceased from exploring the fullness of still lifes. Her works have, of late, taken on a broader vista of moods and pleasures.

Notice the manner with which she juxtaposes the various elements at play, starting from the delicate tabletops and tablecloths to the imminent character of the vases, and now to the spatial background looming in her window exteriors. Far beyond what the eye can see lies a world that is to take her still life to unimagined realms.

Life, like the miniature world of flowers thriving in a vase, will happily bloom again. And life will never be the same.

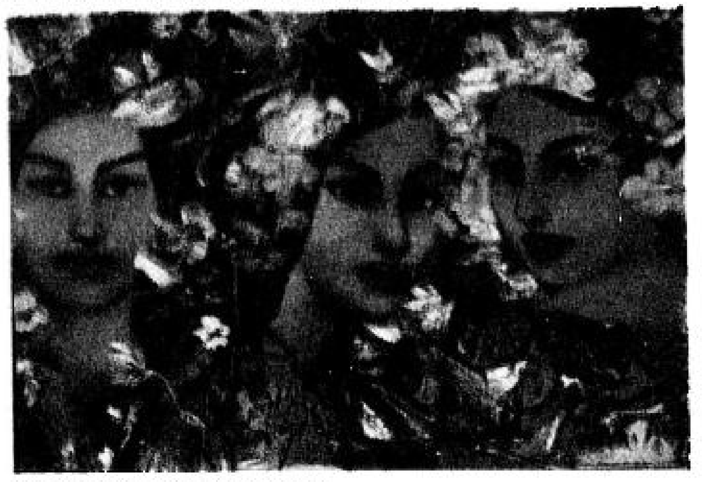
Hermes Alegre, like the two women painters in this show, focuses on the rural Filipina as icon of beauty and grace, a subject that keeps recurring in his oeuvre. Indeed, Alegre, who suffuses his compositions with nature's vibrant foliage and the sun-dappled charms of his subjects, resurrects the nymph-like character we tend to associate with mythical and sensual romances.

Lovely, fragile, ephemeral—these women lend themselves to a commemoration of the fugitive nature of life in a tropical world, conjuring life's simpler, more natural existence.

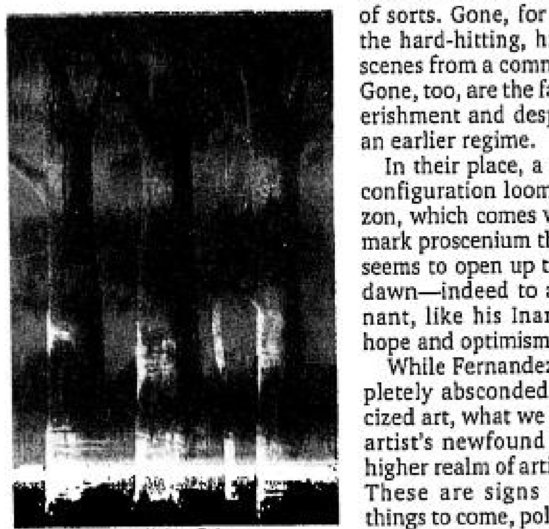
Gauguin-like, Alegre's women are the protagonists in an encounter that the poet William Blake once described as seeing heaven in a wild flower. With their long, lithe bodies, their sensual yet serene gaze, the women tease, seduce and cajole their men to surrender, with the manifestation of desire, the promise of love, hothouse flowers in an Arcadian paradise. Alegre celebrates the beauty of the Filipina in its various guises and disguises.

The women of Caloy Gabuco exude a gossamer presence, revealing a certain delicacy of character. Having mastered the fine art of portraiture, Gabuco delineates his subjects in the context of the venerable mother-and-child imagery, knowing well that the subject strikes a responsive chord in the Filipino psyche.

Gabuco, who has delved into a wide range of styles, having, at various times, swung from abstraction to representation, knows whereof he draws (and he prefers pastels for his portraitures). Small wonder, then, that he incorporates abstract elements into his figurative renderings of women—as mothers and lovers, angels and sinners, protagonists all in this country long tagged as essentially matriarchal.



"NYMPHS" by Hermes Alegre



"RED Forest" by Edgar Talusan Fernandez

New mode

Edgar Talusan Fernandez, the erstwhile hardcore disciple of social realism, has not completely forsaken his SR roots. Though he still professes to be a staunch believer in socially and politically committed art, he has embraced a new mode of combining the abstract and the figurative, a task he dispenses with in his indomitable way.

While his past works were searing portraits of social injustice, particularly those made during the chaotic martial-law period, they have since undergone some essential artistic realigning of sorts. Gone, for instance, are the hard-hitting, highly charged scenes from a committed SR ally. Gone, too, are the faces of impoverishment and desperation from an earlier regime.

In their place, a more abstract configuration looms in the horizon, which comes with his trademark proscenium that, as always, seems to open up to the break of dawn—indeed to a future pregnant, like his Inang Laya, with hope and optimism.

While Fernandez has not completely absconded on his politicized art, what we see now is the artist's newfound utopia in the higher realm of artistic evolution. These are signs of yet better things to come, politically and artistically, which will bring us closer, as in struggles past, to the renaissance of the Filipino spirit.

As the youngest member in the group, Jonathan Olazo, scion of the renowned Romulo Olazo (of the diaphanous paintings that took the art scene by storm), has now come into his own, thanks to his uninterrupted immersion in the art of his forebears.

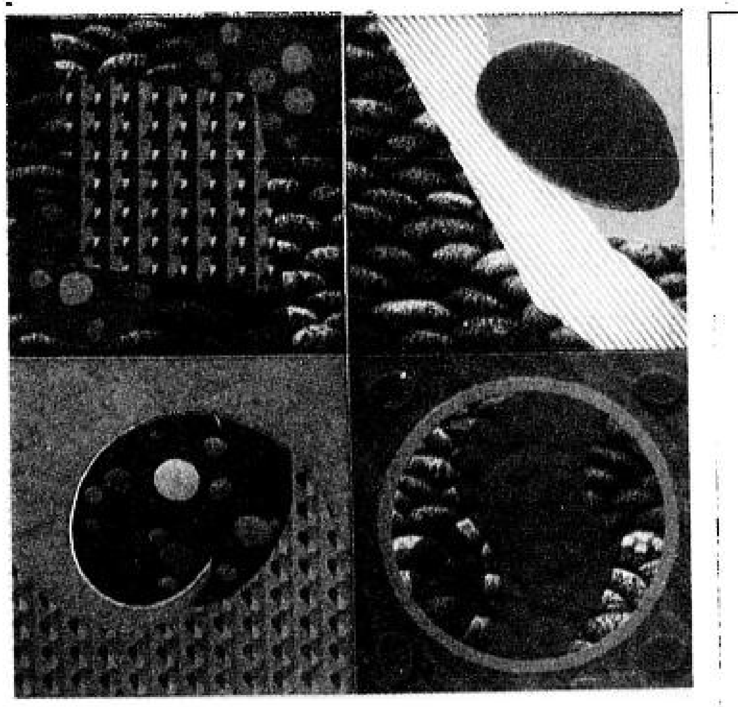
Being his father's son, the young Olazo has, by turns, tried his hand in various media, beginning with printmaking then to drawing and finally painting, which suits his ambidextrous talents indeed. Though not necessarily diffused with his endless experimentations, his works have slowly begun to take a life of their own, a new brand of spontaneity and immediacy seeping into uncharted territories.

Olazo has learned to play sleight of hand with color, composition and texture, the surface taking on the equally vital part that makes up the whole, and teasing the viewer to move closer and examine the gestural touches that dominate his canvases.

With this exhibit showcasing the best and brightest of contemporary Philippine art, audiences everywhere, whether at home grounds or abroad, are bound to experience the brilliantly hued, multivisioned Filipino vitality and humanity. Truly a confluence of diverging views that will help unlock the Filipino character.

The exhibit at Gallery 101 (Kaimo Building, 101 Quezon Ave., Sto. Domingo, QC), July 17-28, will be brought to New York where it will be exhibited at the Philippine Center Gallery (556 Fifth Ave.), Sept. 3-13.

E-mail the author at gdormiendo@yahoo.com



BOLD colors surge with energy.

Lamarroza's private Eden

By Johnathan Libarios Rondina
Contributor

BY HIS own admission, noted artist Prudencio "Amor" Lamarroza is a ghost. Despite a distinguished career that spans four decades, he seems to remember very little and aspires for just as much.

"I don't even have a wallet or any ID," he says, suggesting that in the postmodern surveillance society of checkpoints and body frisking, he can disappear at will.

Like all great artists, Lamarroza, 58, is a nonconformist. After two years of fine arts studies at the University of Santo Tomas, he transferred to the Philippine Women's University because he couldn't stand wearing a uniform.

Many years later, at the opening of a traveling exhibit in the US, where he was one of the featured artists, Lamarroza decided not to make an appearance after learning that he was supposed to wear a *barong tagalog*. Only upon the urging of his peers did the artist show up in the subsequent opening parties, dressed in the cheapest *barong* he could find.

"*Ang kintab ng barong ko*," he recalls, "*parang* plastic."

Yet, Lamarroza hardly fits the egotistical, eccentric artist-stereotype. In fact he is painfully shy, speaks very little in a charmingly Yoda-esque manner, and has a nondescript fashion sense, perhaps so that he can easily summon his powers of invisibility.

Lamarroza and his works are a study in contrasts. His timid decorum belies the boldness of his colors, teeming as they do on his canvases with a surge of energy.

The artist, a man of few words, is a painter with a gifted hand. His aesthetic styles run the gamut of visual representation, from figurative realism to abstract expressionism. He is also a photographer, videographer and installation artist, and keeps a collection of his own works that have yet to be exhibited.

Lamarroza may also be considered a renegade environmentalist. He is a tree squatter, an ecological vigilante on the loose with a penchant for planting trees on other people's idle lands, even

LAMARROZA'S / p.D5

Mendiola at Avellana, De Leon at West, top watercolorists at Genesis, Saturday Group at Shangri-La Plaza

VISUAL ARTS

DR. ROGER MENDIOLA, a medical doctor who discovered the beauty and mystery of antiques after a 10-month scholarship grant in Paris in the '70s, has filled his home with interesting finds, ranging from immense iron-wrought doors from ancestral homes in Manila and Pampanga to stained-glass church windows, narra and molave furniture, Spanish-era bricks, bottles, pottery and ceramics, plant and animal fossils, lamps, figurines, and semiprecious stones. From this unrelenting desire to compose a medley of the past, Mendiola has found inspiration for "X-cavated," his first sculpture exhibition of excavated art, Aug. 6-29 at the Avellana Art Gallery, 220 Fresno Road, Pasay City. Call 522-9793 to 94. Mendiola has also presented his abstract acrylic paintings in solo exhibitions and has been recognized for his accomplishments in pottery, landscaping and the art of bonsai.

R.M. DE LEON, who seems to find more flexibility in children's art, presents his latest efforts in Pretty Strange, his new one-man show at the West Gallery in Glorietta 4. The works in acrylic on paper will be on view Aug 1-13.

GALLERY GENESIS presents "Kulay sa Tubig." The annual invitational watercolor competition and exhibition highlights the value and significance of the watercolor medium. It opens Aug. 1 at the SM Megamall Art Center. The 19th "Kulay sa Tubig" will choose the country's five Best Watercolorists, and five runners-up. The exhibition at the Gallery Genesis, SM Megamall will feature recent paintings of the Kulay sa Tubig Hall of Fame artists: Manuel Baldemor, Toti Cerda, Jose Ceriola, Clarence Eduarte, Egal Fernandez, Renato Habulan, Benjie Ladrido, Jimmy Vista and Wong Shui Loong. Honored in the Hall of Fame is a watercolorist who has won three times in the annual competition. The exhibit will run until Aug 13. Call 633-6137 to 38.

THE SATURDAY GROUP is holding a watercolor exhibit at the 3/L Shaw Side of the Shangri-La Plaza. Dubbed "Tubig," the two-week sale-exhibit will run until Aug. 10. Mauro Malang will unveil his masterpieces in watercolor, a medium he has not used since he won first place in the watercolor category of the Art Association of the Philippines painting contest in 1963. Also on show are masterpieces of veteran artists Magoo Valencia, Cris Cruz, Frank Cada, King Verano, Ben Infante. Call 633-7851 local 151.

FOUR CONTEMPORARY visual artists "interact" with artists from the 19th century in an exhibit dubbed "Titamarialmairma: Conversations with 19th-Century Artists," Aug. 10-Sept. 7, at the Surrounded by Water Art Gallery. The exhibit brings together artists Tita Lim, Maria Tanigochi, Alma "Urduja" Quinto and Irma Lacorte. Surrounded by Water is at 70 18th Ave., Cubao, QC. Call 421-3526.

SOLER presents the latest installment of his ongoing "Stone Garden Series" on July 30-Aug. 11 at Finale Art Gallery, Artwalk, 4/L, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City. In Soler's mixed media brew, torn pieces of paper and gestural washes of mainly black and white enhance the paintings' dynamism. The works are studies in black and white and the spectrum of gray, counterpointed with orange and earth tones like ocher and siena.

THREE YOUNG ARTISTS from the University of Bohol won in the second leg of the "Gallery of the Sea: Water Arts Festival," spearheaded by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and hosted by the Bohol Foreign Friendship Foundation Inc. (BFFFI) in Alona Beach, Panglao Island, Bohol. Fine Arts students Eric Catot, 18, and Dave Ramos, 20, and Interior Design student Felix Ballo, 18, placed first, second and third, respectively, in the country's first-ever painting on sails competition conceptualized by Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Heherson T. Alvarez.

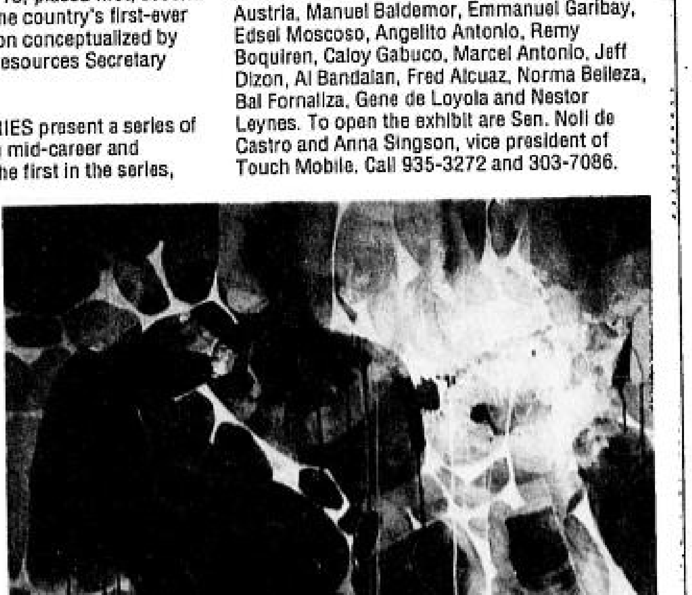
KULAY DIWA ART GALLERIES present a series of group exhibitions featuring mid-career and promising young artists. The first in the series, "Recent Works," opens at 3 p.m., Aug. 11, and features 16 painters and one sculptor of various concerns and persuasions. These are Gabriel Barredo, Plet Bolipata, Elmer Borlongan, Daniel Coquilla, Leslie de Chavez, Kiko Escora, Carlo Gabuco, Emmanuel Garibay, Dennis Gonzales, Joseph Lofranco, Claro Ramirez, Jon Red, Mario de Rivera, Don Salubayba, CJ Tanedo, Ian Victoriano and Christopher Zamora. The exhibit is open to the public and runs until Sept. 11. Kulay Diwa is at 25 Lopez Ave., Lopez Village, Sucat, Parañaque City. Call 826-0574.

ESCUELA SA MUSEO offers five choice workshops from August to September. Kids can learn how much fun the world of art can be. Toddlers take the front seat as the museum relaunches Play Art for Toddlers, 10-12 p.m. every Saturday, Aug. 31-Sept. 21. Beginner's Oil Painting for adults will be conducted 6-9 p.m. Friday nights, Aug. 2-Sept. 20, and the Advanced Portraiture class in charcoal and oil will be held 9 a.m.-12 p.m., Saturdays, Aug. 10-Sept. 28. Jewelry Making classes will be 2-5 p.m. Wednesdays, Aug. 7-28, while Decorative Arts class for adults will be conducted 2-5 p.m. Wednesdays, Sept. 4-25. Call 810-8407.

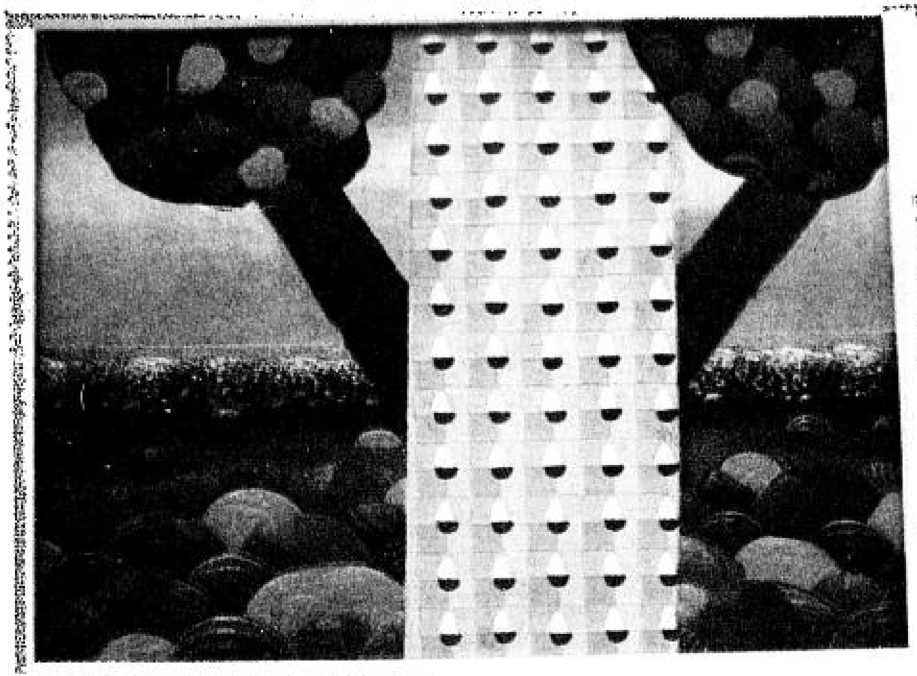
GALLERIA DE NAVA mounts an exhibit on Aug. 8-15 at the Land Bank of the Philippines head office in M.H. del Pilar Street in Malate, Manila, to mark the 39th anniversary of the bank and the birthday of its president, former Rep. Margarito Teves.

GALERIA DE NAVA (Adriatico Arms Hotel, J. Nakpil and Remedio Streets, Malate) will present "Eclectic Expressions II" on Aug. 5. Artists featured are Prudencio Lamarroza, Tam Austria, Manuel Baldemor, Emmanuel Garibay, Edsel Moscoso, Angelito Antonio, Remy Boquiren, Caloy Gabuco, Marcel Antonio, Jeff Dizon, Al Bandalan, Fred Alcuaz, Norma Belleza, Bal Fornaliza, Gene de Loyola and Nestor Leynes. To open the exhibit are Sen. Noli de Castro and Anna Singson, vice president of Touch Mobile. Call 935-3272 and 303-7086.

ENVIRONMENT and Natural Resources Secretary Heherson Alvarez and Presidential Adviser for Jobs Creation Luis Lorenzo Jr. view a triptych painting of Ricky V. Osorio (right) at the recent opening of the artist's one-man exhibit "Inner Deep" at the Bagaberde Grill & Restaurant, 7 Xavier St., Oranbo, Pasig City, near Ultra. The exhibit runs until Aug. 2.



"STONE Garden," mixed media on paper, by Soler, at Finale



PATTERN art and imaginary landscapes

Lamarroza's private Eden

From page D4

without their consent.

Signature

But it is clearly for his pattern art, those abstract, geometric patterns strewn across imagined landscapes, that Lamarroza has earned his well-deserved reputation. His paintings are a testament to his masterful talent for eclectic composition and complex, multidimensional textures. They are, in a sense, Lamarroza's ID and wallet; his signature, bread and butter, all in one.

His compositions have often been described as surreal, but Lamarroza's fields of dreams can also be viewed as extraterrestrial landscapes, the artist's own private vision of Eden, an expression of hope and possibilities for a world that can still be, as much as they are remembrances of things and places past.

Thus, in Lamarroza's works, every psychedelic stone, every polychromatic mountain is a living, breathing organism, each with its own unique place in the web of life.

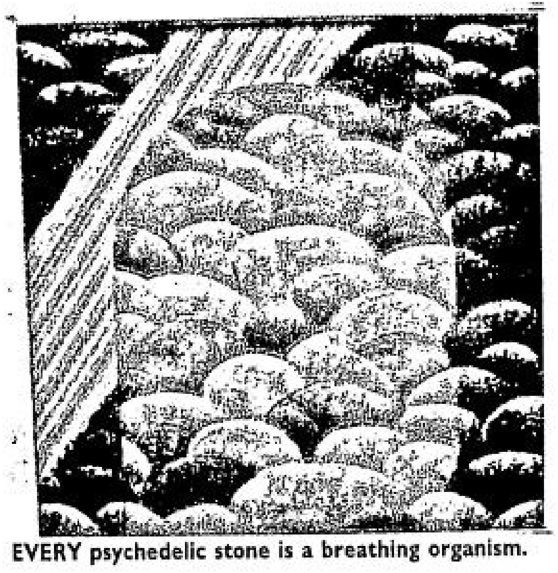
Asked as to how he sees himself in the next couple of years, the artist seems lost for words.

"*Hindi ko alam*," he says, "*pero malaki na siguro ang mga puno ko no'n.*"

You see, for Amor Lamarroza—artist, environmentalist, ghost, visionary—art, in its highest form of evolution, takes the form of a better world.

A special collection of Lamarroza's pattern paintings is exhibited at Megamall's Gallery 9 until Aug.4. Call 687-7302.

E-mail the author at j@rondina.com



EVERY psychedelic stone is a breathing organism.

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- Managing Money in the Arts
- Fundraising & Writing Effective Proposals
- Creative & Intuitive Management

Week 2
- Understanding the Art Consumer
- Wooing the Art Consumer
- Managing Creatives
- Operationalizing the Vision
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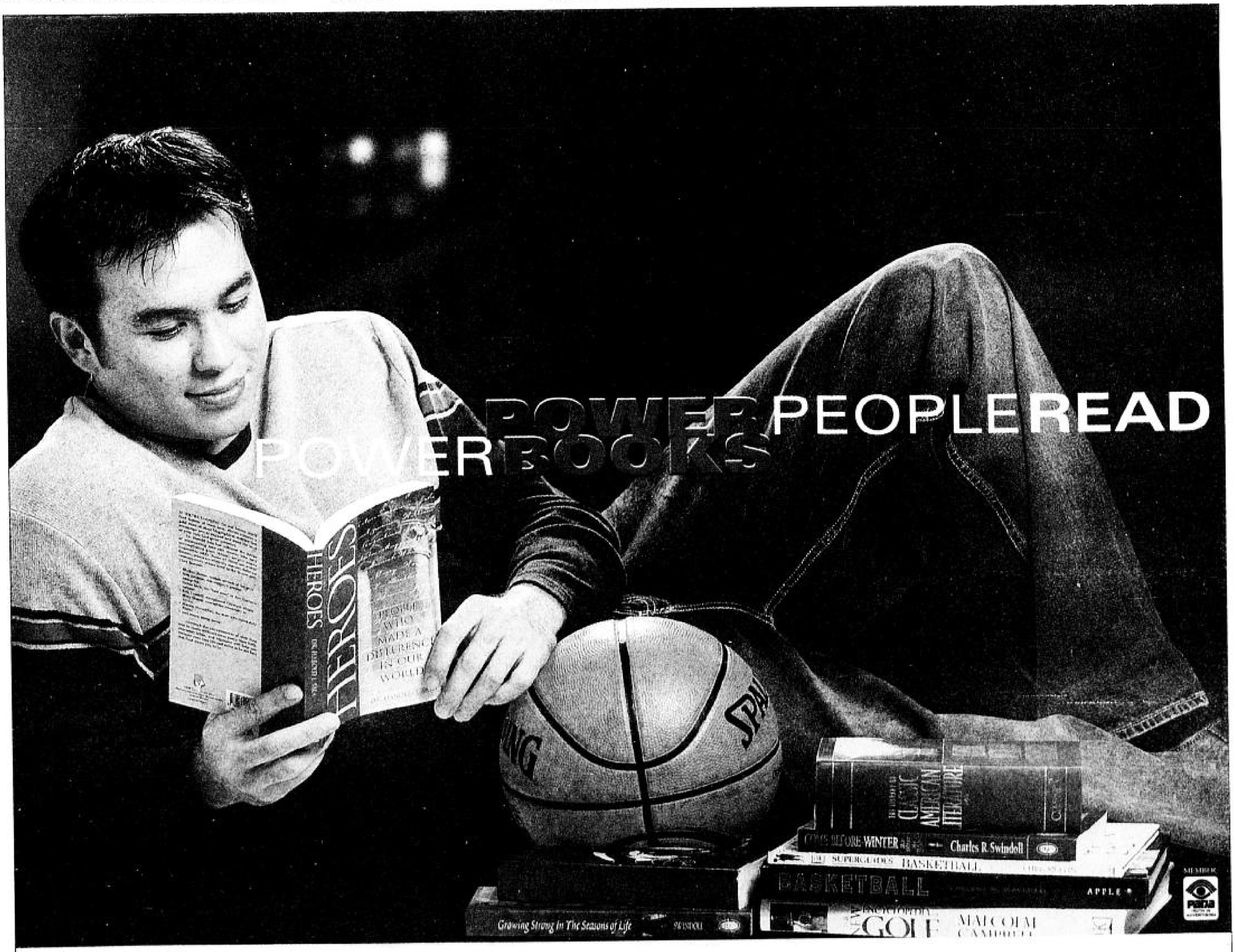

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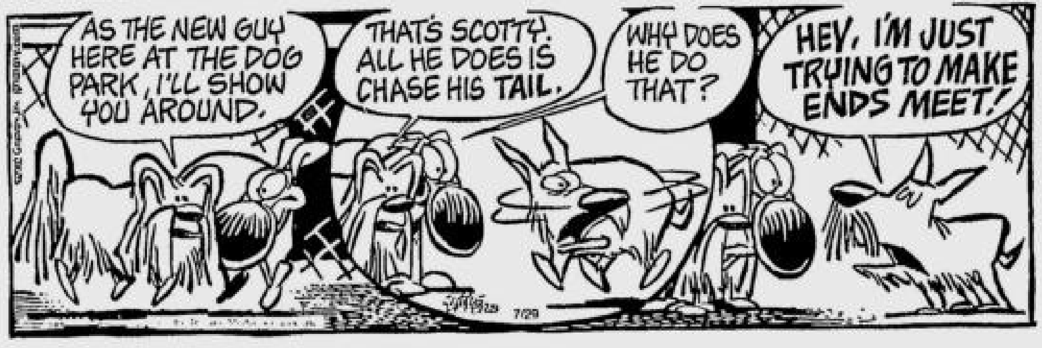
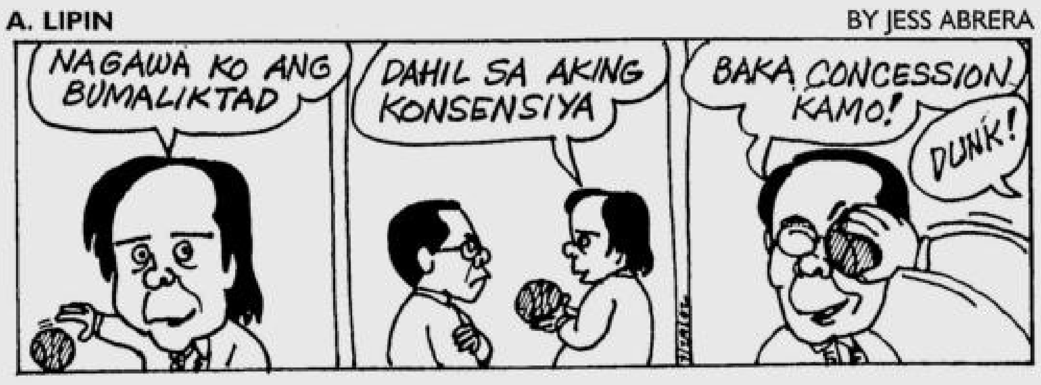
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


AS THE NEW GUY HERE AT THE DOG PARK, I'LL SHOW YOU AROUND.
THAT'S SCOTTY. ALL HE DOES IS CHASE HIS TAIL.
WHY DOES HE DO THAT?
HEY, I'M JUST TRYING TO MAKE ENDS MEET!
7/29

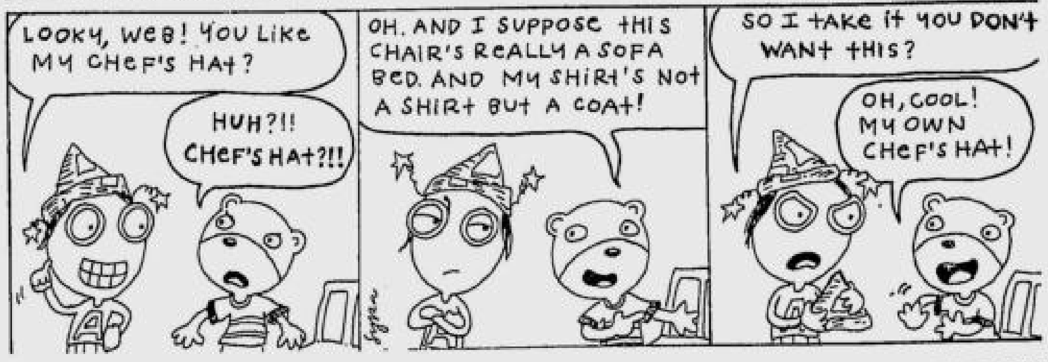
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


NAGAWA KO ANG BUMALIKTAD
DAHIL SA AKING KONSENSIYA
BAKA CONCESSION KAMO!
DUNK!

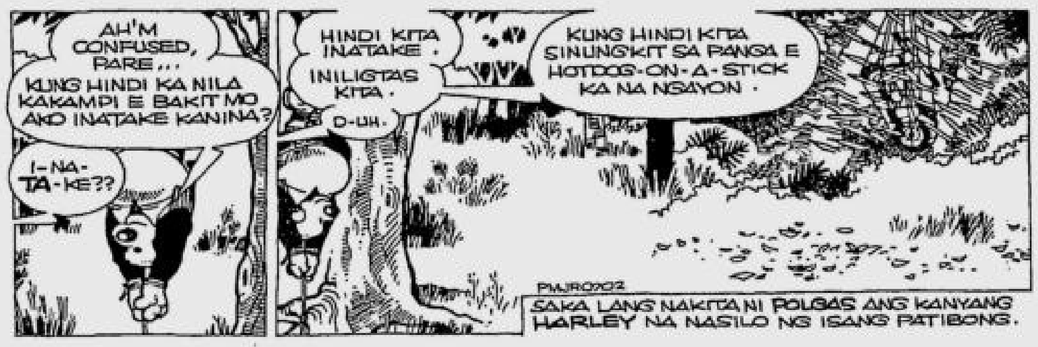
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


LOOKY, WEB! YOU LIKE MY CHEF'S HAT?
HUH?!! CHEF'S HAT?!!
OH. AND I SUPPOSE THIS CHAIR'S REALLY A SOFA BED. AND MY SHIRT'S NOT A SHIRT BUT A COAT!
SO I TAKE IT YOU DON'T WANT THIS?
OH, COOL! MY OWN CHEF'S HAT!

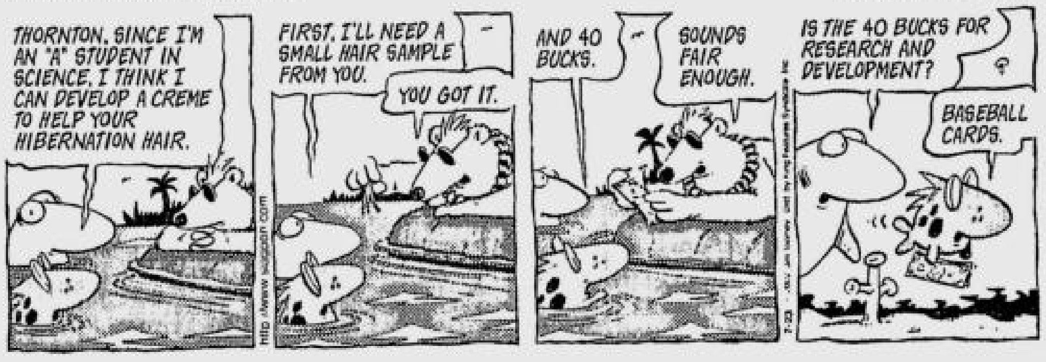
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


AH'M CONFUSED, PARE... KUNG HINDI KA NILA KAKAMPI E BAKIT MO AKO INATAKE KANINA?
I-NA-TA-KE??
HINDI KITA INATAKE.
INILIGTAS KITA.
D-UH.
KUNG HINDI KITA SINUNGKIT SA PANGA E HOTDOG-ON-A-STICK KA NA NGAYON.
PMJR0702
SAKA LANG NAKITA NI POLGAS ANG KANYANG HARLEY NA NASILO NG ISANG PATIBONG.

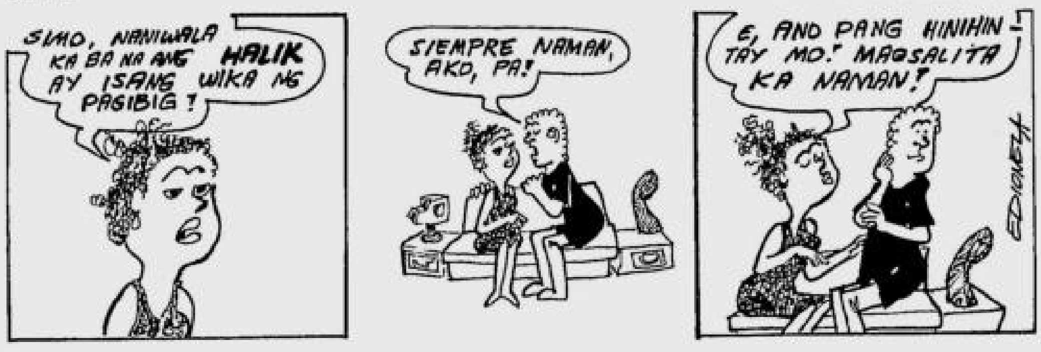
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


THORNTON, SINCE I'M AN "A" STUDENT IN SCIENCE, I THINK I CAN DEVELOP A CREME TO HELP YOUR HIBERNATION HAIR.
FIRST, I'LL NEED A SMALL HAIR SAMPLE FROM YOU.
YOU GOT IT.
AND 40 BUCKS.
SOUNDS FAIR ENOUGH.
IS THE 40 BUCKS FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT?
BASEBALL CARDS.
http://www.slagoon.com
7-23

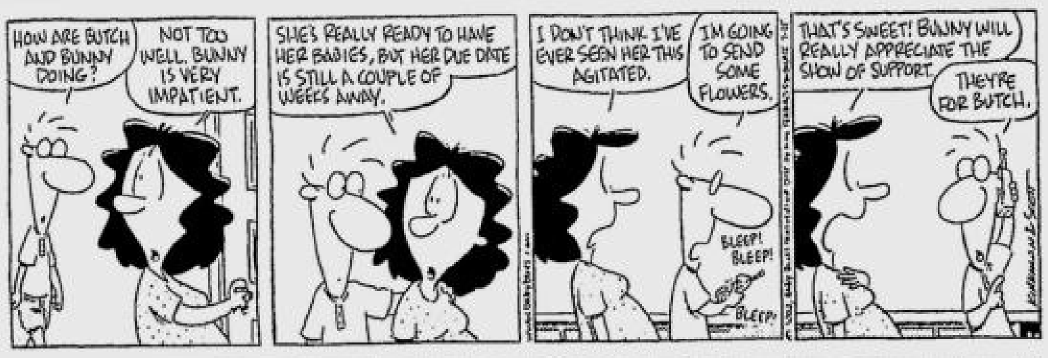
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


SIMO, NANIWALA KA BA NA ANG HALIK AY ISANG WIKA NG PAGIBIG?
SIEMPRE NAMAN, AKO, PA!
E, ANO PANG HINIHINTAY MO? MAGSALITA KA NAMAN!
EDIONELA

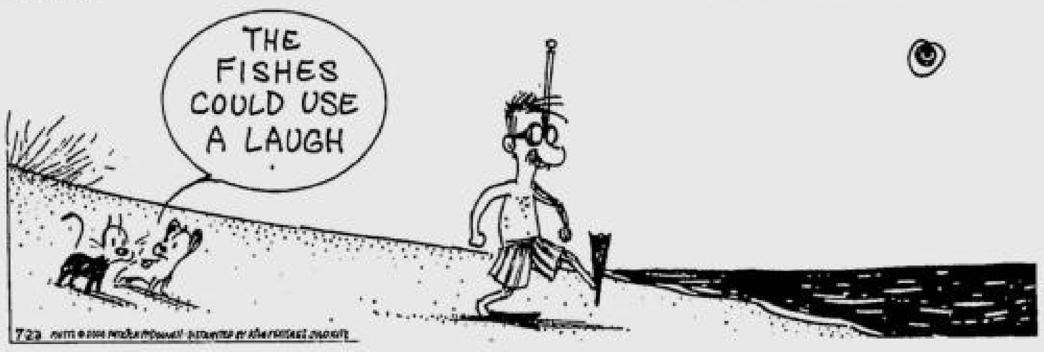
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


HOW ARE BUTCH AND BUNNY DOING?
NOT TOO WELL. BUNNY IS VERY IMPATIENT.
SHE'S REALLY READY TO HAVE HER BABIES, BUT HER DUE DATE IS STILL A COUPLE OF WEEKS AWAY.
I DON'T THINK I'VE EVER SEEN HER THIS AGITATED.
I'M GOING TO SEND SOME FLOWERS.
BLEEP! BLEEP!
BLEEP!
THAT'S SWEET! BUNNY WILL REALLY APPRECIATE THE SHOW OF SUPPORT.
THEY'RE FOR BUTCH.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


THE FISHES COULD USE A LAUGH
7-23

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Peter Jennings, Wil Wheaton, Patti Scialfa

Happy Birthday: You'll be hard working, responsible and disciplined. By helping others you will enhance your reputation and the possibility of meeting someone who becomes an intricate part of your life. You will speak with unfiltered truth about the things that are important to you and that you believe in. Your numbers are 18, 24, 29, 35, 41, 48

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Follow your instincts and don't waffle if you face a challenge or opposition. Your competitive drive will help you see matters through to the end.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): When it comes to social activity and entertainment, the sky will be the limit. You will be fun-loving and full of creative ideas.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Your actions will be admired and a leadership position is likely to come your way. The more actively you pursue your goals the more inviting you will become in the eyes of others.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): It will be difficult for you to hang on to money today. Your choices of entertainment are not likely to be cheap. Unreliable people are likely to lead you astray or take advantage of you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Your changing philosophy is opening your eyes to new and unusual lifestyles. Educational pursuits started today will pay off. Travel and communication will be to your advantage.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You'll have a good sense when it comes to financial dealings and you won't be one to overspend or take unnecessary risks today. You should be able to enjoy a little romance but serious talks will soon follow.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Your ability to express yourself will be enhanced and you will stand out in a crowd. Don't sit back letting your partner make decisions for you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Opportunities for work will surface today. You will get along well with your colleagues. Put some thought into improving your wardrobe. You will be in the mood to get back into shape.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You'll seek fortune through investments and a little good luck. You are likely to experience some winnings today. An investment that deals with property services could turn out to be lucrative.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Your family will experience difficulty getting along today. Emotional matters will be hard to deal with especially if you refuse to compromise. Getting involved in the private affairs of others will backfire.

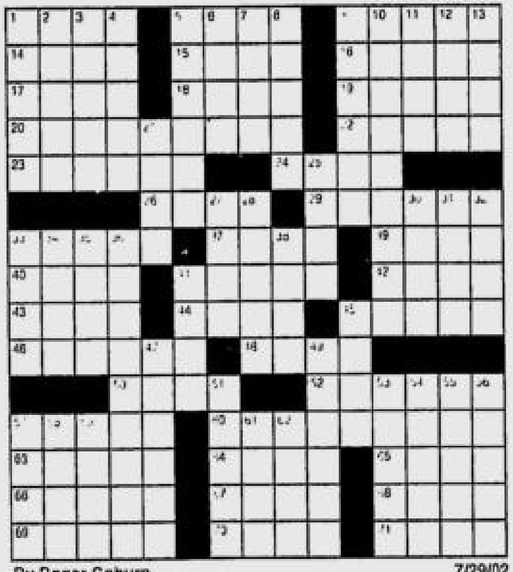
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You can surpass any obstacle that comes your way with your innovative ideas and technological knowledge. This will make an impression on anyone who happens to be observing you.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You will be intent on getting everything you want today. You better slow down and realize that anything worthwhile will take time. Formulate a strategy and work hard to reach your goals.

Birthday Baby: You will stop at nothing in order to get what you want. You will be proud of your family and always stand up for the ones you love. You are very curious.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Roger Coburn
Summerville, GA

7/29/02

ACROSS
1 Web location
5 Social insects
9 Old English county
14 Fort in Kentucky
15 Aloof
16 "The Pirates of Penzance" heroine
17 Say it __ so!
18 Starchy root
19 Moran and Gray
20 Restrooms for ruminants?
22 All confused
23 Overtax
24 Mint or sage
26 Toothed device
29 Whirl
33 Social slights
37 Tolled
39 List-shortening abbr.
40 Existed
41 Bamboo stems
42 Trajectories
43 Actress Turturro
44 Russian saint
45 Ocean ray
46 More than one
48 View from Cleveland
50 Defect
52 Took five
57 Sound of a wet impact
60 Like long-eared rabbits?
63 Word before pipe or officer
64 Modern Persia
65 "Paper Lion" star Alan
66 Say
67 Cash penalty
68 Film spool
69 Orchestra section
70 Passing crazes
71 Does wrong

DOWN
1 Dangerous slides
2 Map on a map
3 Skin cream
4 Additional
5 Play opening
6 Ark builder
7 Lacerated
8 Agitate a liquid
9 All smudged
10 Opportunity for a stag?
11 Bird of the Nile
12 Philosopher Descartes
13 Actress Lanchester
21 Lively dances
25 Poultry output
27 Sea east of the Caspian
28 Extent
30 Gillette razor
31 Diplomat's skill
32 Otherwise
33 Trade
34 Singing Diamond
35 Pakistani tongue
36 Having an ursine mug?
38 Approach
41 Pop
45 Understands
47 Modifies
49 Rich and Worth
51 Passing scent
53 Extended gaze
54 "Saint Maybe" novelist
55 Mormon church leader
56 Distributes cards
57 Stimulus
58 Sampras of tennis
59 Tardy
61 Opera highlight
62 South African moola

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

L	O	C	A	L	E	■	A	M	E	N	A	B	L	E
A	D	O	R	E	S	■	P	A	R	A	N	O	I	A
T	O	M	C	A	T	■	S	T	A	R	D	U	S	T
I	M	P	■	D	A	M	E	S	■	C	A	R	T	E
N	E	U	R	I	T	I	S	■	C	O	N	N	E	R
A	T	T	U	N	E	D	■	H	A	S	T	E	N	S
T	E	E	M	■	■	R	O	O	K	I	E	■	■	■
E	R	S	■	S	T	I	F	L	E	S	■	D	A	B
■	■	■	S	T	U	F	F	Y	■	■	N	E	V	A
D	I	S	T	A	F	F	■	S	C	A	T	T	E	R
I	M	P	A	R	T	■	S	E	A	S	H	O	R	E
S	P	E	L	L	■	S	E	E	M	S	■	N	A	N
H	U	N	K	E	R	E	D	■	P	E	L	A	G	E
E	T	C	E	T	E	R	A	■	U	N	I	T	E	S
S	E	E	D	S	M	E	N	■	S	T	E	E	D	S

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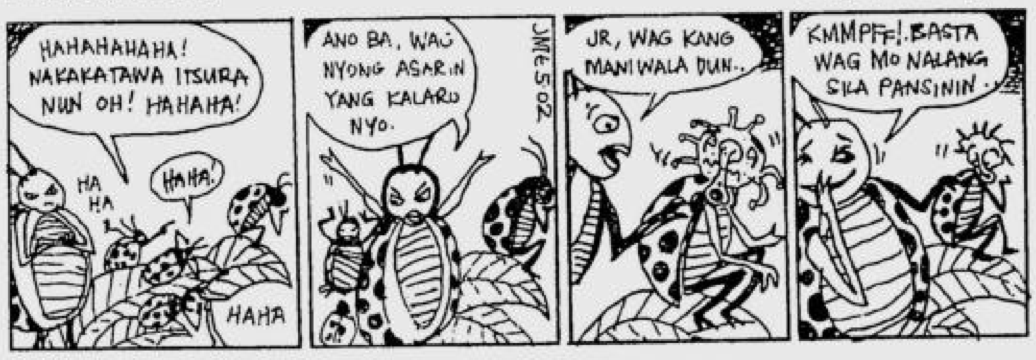
7/29/02

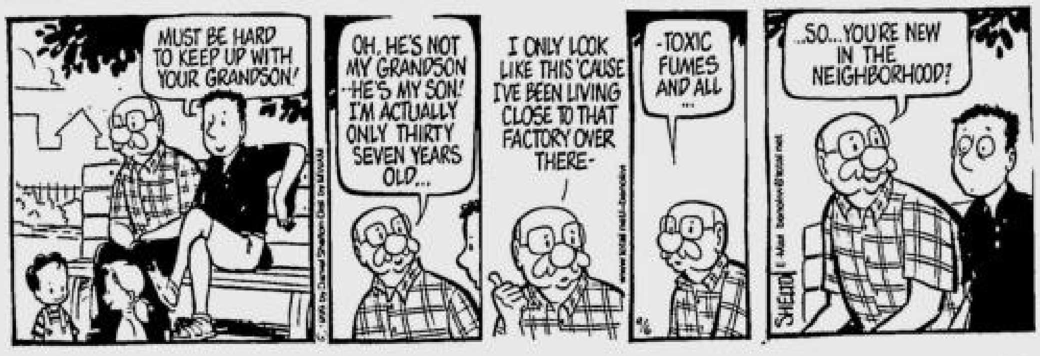
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


HAHAHAHAHA! NAKAKATAWA ITSURA NUN OH! HAHAHA!
HA HA
HAHA!
HAHA
ANO BA, WAG NYONG ASARIN YANG KALARO NYO.
JMT 5.02
JR, WAG KANG MANIWALA DUN..
KMMPFF!. BASTA WAG MO NALANG SILA PANSININ.

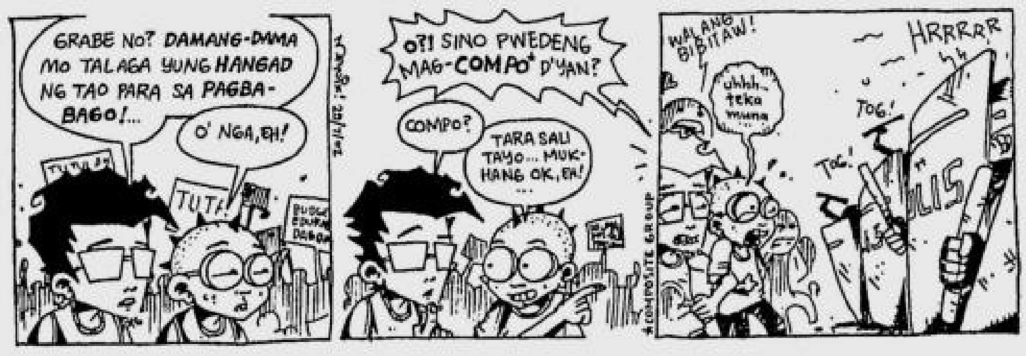
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


MUST BE HARD TO KEEP UP WITH YOUR GRANDSON!
OH, HE'S NOT MY GRANDSON - HE'S MY SON! I'M ACTUALLY ONLY THIRTY SEVEN YEARS OLD...
I ONLY LOOK LIKE THIS 'CAUSE I'VE BEEN LIVING CLOSE TO THAT FACTORY OVER THERE-
-TOXIC FUMES AND ALL ...
...SO... YOU'RE NEW IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD?
SHELTON

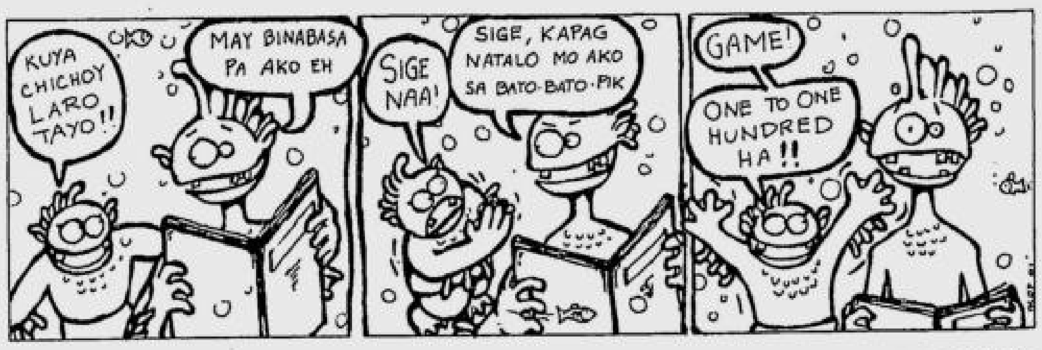
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


GRABE NO? DAMANG-DAMA MO TALAGA YUNG HANGAD NG TAO PARA SA PAGBABAGO!...
O' NGA, EH!
TUTA
O?! SINO PWEDENG MAG-COMPO D'YAN?
COMPO?
TARA SALI TAYO... MUKHANG OK, EH!
WALANG BIBITAW!
uhhh.. teka muna
HRRRRR
TOG!
TOG!

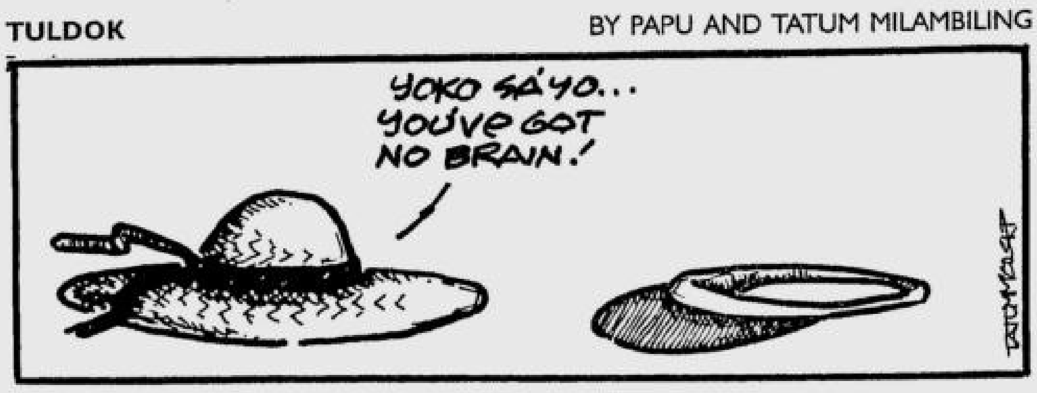
CHICHOY CHOKOY

BY IKOY RICIO


KUYA CHICHOY LARO TAYO!!
MAY BINABASA PA AKO EH
SIGE NAA!
SIGE, KAPAG NATALO MO AKO SA BATO-BATO-PIK
GAME!
ONE TO ONE HUNDRED HA!!

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


YOKO SA'YO... YOU'VE GOT NO BRAIN!
TATUM

HAYDEE Yorac and French Ambassador Renee Veyret

SYLVIA Van Remoortele, Carolyn Dimond and Marilyn Collette

SAKU Karunasiri and Mme. Sereywath

LOURDES Montinola, Washington Sycip and Aurelio Montinola III

PHOTOS BY BETOY JOHNSON

PITOY Moreno and Josie Lichauco

OLGA Martel, Venezuelan Ambassador Milena Ramirez and Nena Casimiro

CAMBODIAN Ambassador EK Sereywath and Tony Rufino

A gathering of friends on Bastille Day

DIPLOMATIC SWIRL

By Amiga

IT WAS all patriotic fervor at the French embassy on Bastille Day on July 14. There was an informality to it, making it a gathering of friends. Madame Ambassador **Renee Veyret**, ever the gracious host, made sure everyone had their fill of food and drink, and interesting conversation.

It appeared everyone had the same idea. The participants came before the prescribed hour to avail of parking, only to discover that everyone was present.

Alliance Française president **Aurelio Montinola III**, who speaks beautiful French, was there with mom **Lourdes Montinola**. Tough cookie **Haydee Yorac** had a new, more becoming hairdo. Chilean Ambassador **Carmen Lynam** was in fire-engine red wardrobe that balanced the gray skies.

Also there were Canadian Ambassador **Robert Collette**, Belgian Ambassador **Roland** and **Sylvia Remoortele**, Cambodian Ambassador and Mme. **EK Sereywath**.

Always in elegant black, **Josie Lichauco** was there with **Pitoy Moreno**. Chic Venezuelan Ambassador **Milena Ramirez** was there, as well as **Paz Yuchengco**. **Virgil Reyes** was in a lovely aqua blue shirt of radian silk from good friend **Patis Tesoro**. Consul **Evie Costa** and **Fortune Ledesma** were also there.

In one corner, National Artist **Frankie Jose** held court with **Tony Lopez.** He was complaining that there just weren't much literary poems and stories worth publishing. He was also explaining why culture couldn't be just folksy. Could you imagine Michelangelo being asked to paint a folksy ceiling at the Vatican?

After the success of the **Cecile Licad** concert at the embassy residence, German Ambassador **Herbert** and Mme. **Micheline Jess** are again hosting another musical evening with the Kammerchor Stuttgart under the baton of Maestro **Frieder Bernius**.

Given the cuts in the local cultural budget, thank heaven for the diplomats.

* * *

For those who missed the Ben Farrales 50th anniversary gala, they will have a chance to see the show when the dean of Philippine designers mounts the show again on Aug. 19 at the Shangri-La Hotel in Makati. Proceeds will go to the Typhoon Victim Rehabilitation Program of the Philippine National Red Cross.

CANADIAN Ambassador Robert Collette

EVIE Costa

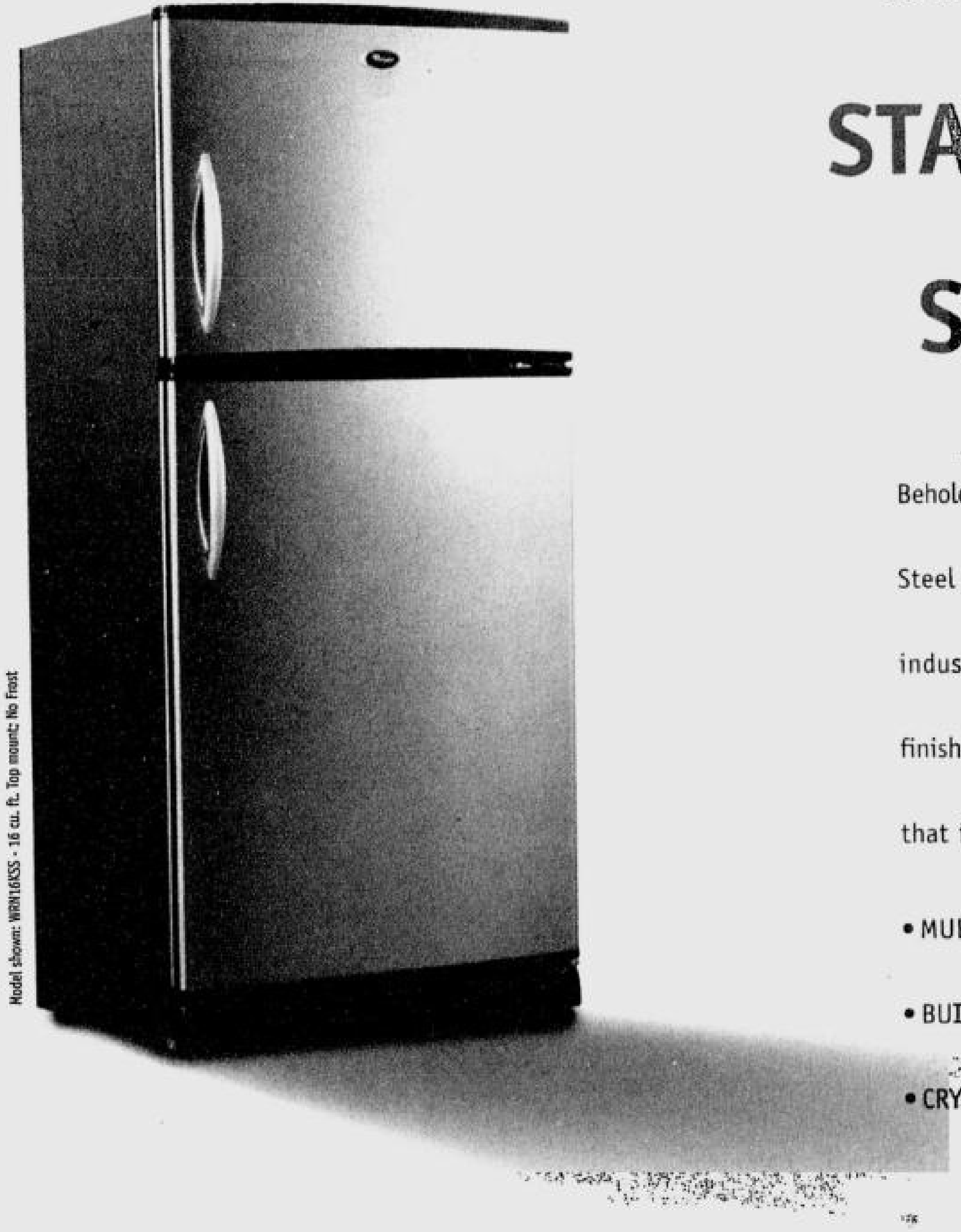
Singapore awards scholarship grants

THE SINGAPORE government has awarded the Singapore scholarship to 14 outstanding Filipino students.

The 14 awards amount to some P50 million. Singapore's ambassador to the Philippines Jacky Foo awarded the scholarship to Jerome Cezar P. Gracia, Wesley Spencer See, Michael L. Tulod, Jose Miguel M. Abito, Joyce Lu Fong, Arthur Nicolas M. Noguera, Stephanie Jemima T. Chong, Jeunesse T. Lee, Zada Abigail S. Ong and Brian Yshmael D. Rito.

The ceremony was witnessed by Vice President Teofisto Guingona, senior officials of the DFA, Department of Education, and National Economic Development Authority; principals, teachers, families and friends of the 10 scholars. A separate award ceremony was conducted for the other four scholars from Mindanao on July 1 at the Marco Polo Hotel in Davao City.

Ambassador Foo also awarded nine—the highest number from the Philippines in a single year—SIF-ASEAN Fellowship to Filipino students who have shown excellent academic results and an active interest in organizing community and student activities. This year's fellows are Natalie Rubnan Que, Duke Maglinte Bajenting, Kenneth Matthew T. Chua, Raz de la Torre, Reinalyn Ong Gopun, Richard D. Abalos, Charity Lopez-Pascua, Mary Ann Baon Manahan and Brian Vincent Leonio Belen. They will join the ranks of some 70 young Filipinos who have already benefited from the fellowship.



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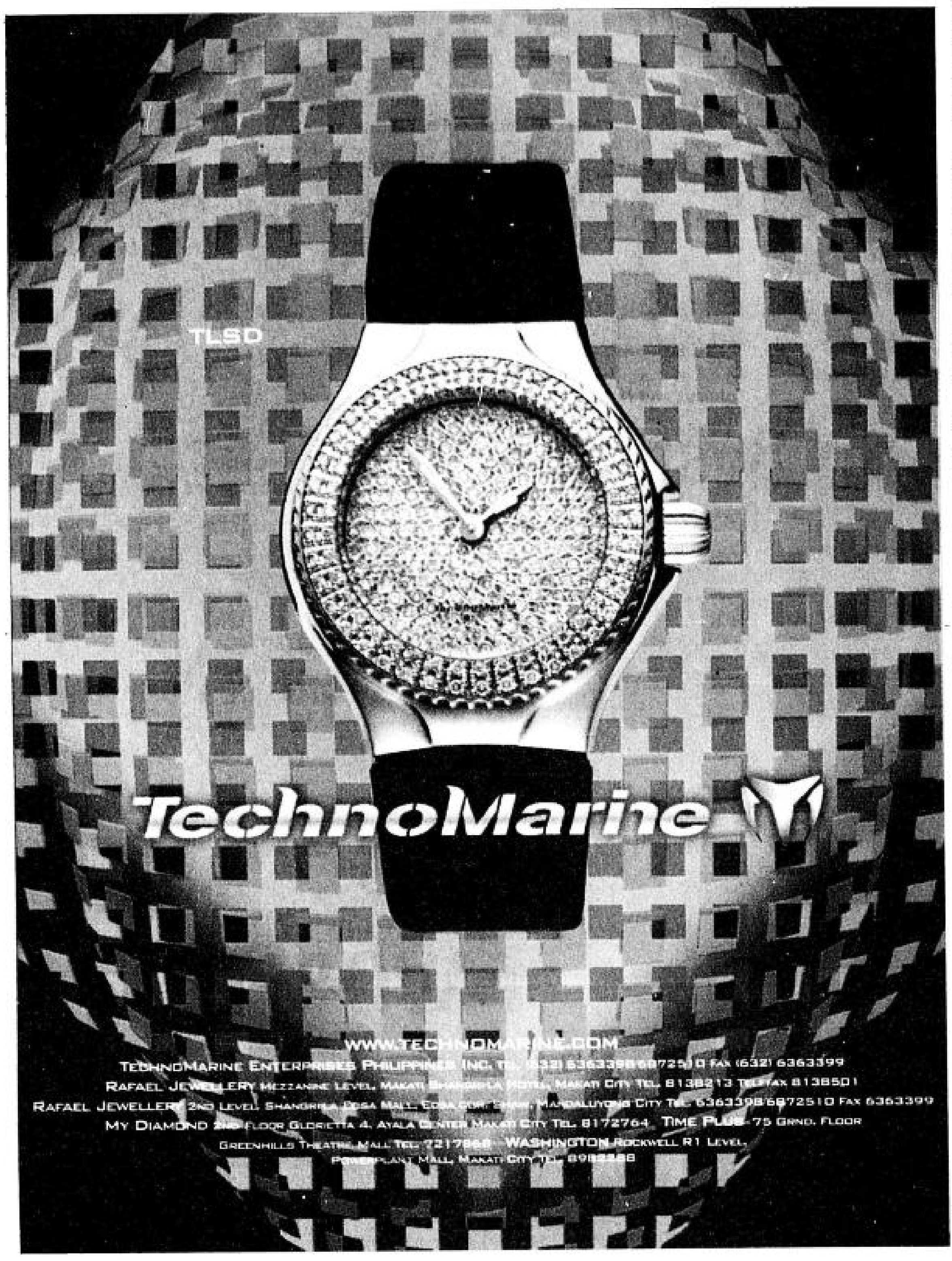

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Raul Sunico in concert

THE SUNICO Foundation for Arts and Technology, in cooperation with the Cultural Center of the Philippines, will present the piano concerto "Hand in Hand with Raul Sunico," 7:30 p.m., Aug. 4, at the Tanghalang Nicanor Abelardo (CCP Main Theater).

Sunico will be accompanied by the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra under the baton of conductor Herminigildo Ranera. The evening's repertoire will include works by Ravel, Liszt, Bizet/Horowitz, Berg and Albeniz el Puerto. It will culminate with Rachmaninoff's Concerto No. 3 in Dm, Op. 30.

Proceeds from the concert will help fund the scholarship programs of the Sunico Foundation for gifted Filipino students in the arts as well as science and technology.

Sunico is currently the dean of the Conservatory of Music of the University of Santo Tomas. A graduate of the Juilliard School of Music, he earned his doctorate in piano performance from New York University. He has performed in North America, Europe and Asia.

For tickets, call 849-7209, 373-4530 or 832-1125.

SUNICO PHOTO BY RUPERT JACINTO

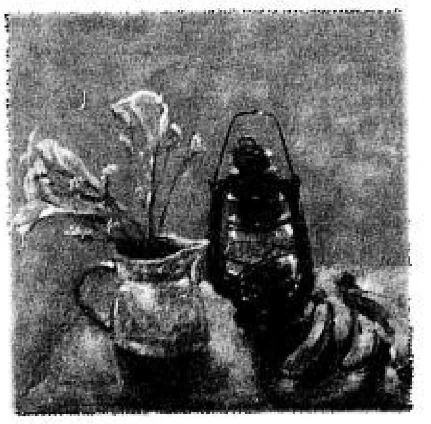
UST art mentors hold exhibit

THE PAINTING faculty of the College of Fine Arts and Design (CFAD) of the University of Santo Tomas is holding an exhibit at the UST Museum of Arts and Sciences Gallery until Aug. 14.

The exhibit showcases the works of CFAD assistant dean and Painting department head Jaime de los Santos, and professors Bong Ducat, Ronald Ventura, Mailah Baldemor, Glory Rogers, Tess Lafortesa, and Danilo Santiago in various media, such as oil, watercolor and mix media.

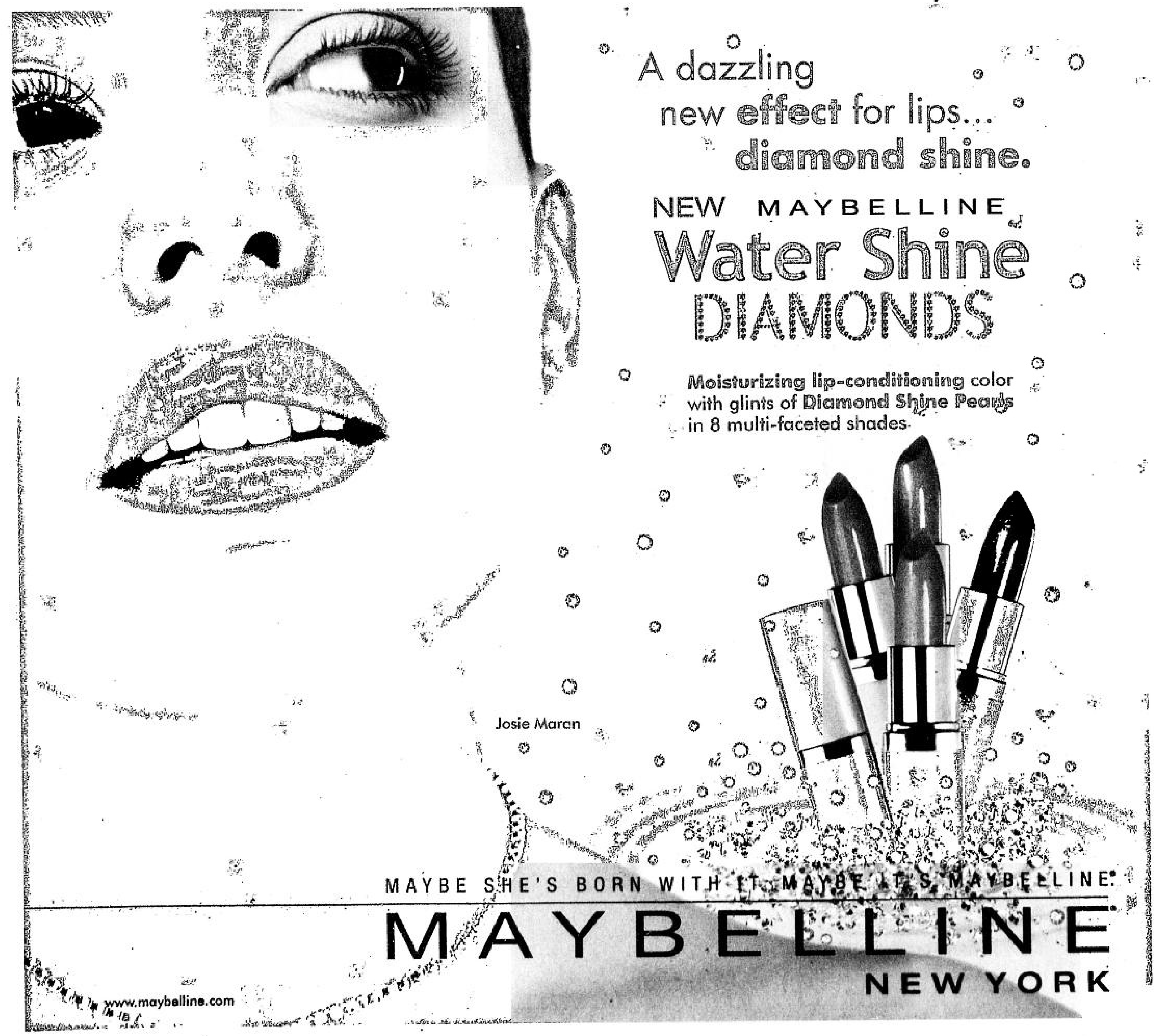
Santiago and UST Museum assistant gallery curator Jocelyn Tullao curate the exhibit.

In addition, the artists will conduct lectures, demonstrations and painting sessions during the exhibit.



R. OCAMPO CRUZ AT CRUCIBLE

Ramoncito Ocampo Cruz is holding an exhibit at the Crucible Gallery (4/L, SM Megamall)until Aug. 13. Cruz trained under Wenceslao Garcia, Bonifacio Cristobal and Leonardo Hilado at the UST College of Architecture and Fine Arts in the 1970s. According to his schoolmate, artist Jose Tence Ruiz, Cruz shows "taut but sure brushwork, relaxed yet limpid composition, and intuitive but palpable asymmetry."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Spotlight on

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Vibrant first semester for the performing arts

By Amadis Ma. Guerrero
Contributor

MIREN Alvarez and Paolo Fabregas in the romantic comedy "The Owl and the Pussycat" by Repertory Philippines

THE YEAR started on a nationalistic note with the January showing of "Memories of a Forgotten War," a documentary on the Philippine-American War of 1899 by Sari Lluch Dalena and Camilla Benolirao Griggers, at the University of the Philippines Film Center.

From 1899 to 1913, some 1.5 million Filipinos died due to war and war-related causes, like disease and famine. But that has long been forgotten by Filipinos today, who have no sense of history, and who believe that American soldiers are the saviors of democracy.

The theme of cultural nationalism continued with "Handog kay Atang," a tribute to the late National Artist Atang de la Rama by the Tribung Pinoy Foundation, at the Cultural Center's Tanghalang Aurelio Tolentino.

Soprano Rachelle Gerodias was a visual and vocal treat, while soprano Lisa A. Cabahug impressed the audience with her high notes. Tenor Lemuel de la Cruz sang with feeling, shifting effortlessly from fortissimo to pianissimo.

De la Cruz (University of Santo Tomas Conservatory, Hong Kong Academy of the Performing Arts) and Gerodias (also of the UST Conservatory) make for an attractive pair. They are even more appealing when seen up close, as in the well-attended First Pasig Summer Music Festival at the new Pasig City Museum, formerly the Concepcion Mansion.

That musicfest was notable for its array of young, well-trained talents ready for the big time. Apart from De la Cruz and Gerodias, these included baritone Marvin Gayramon (quite a showman), clarinetist Girard Moses Villanueva, and pianists Oliver Salonga, Jonathan Arevalo Coo, Benjie Dia and Najib Ismail.

Scandal

Translated into Filipino, "The Vagina Monologues" (New Voice) became even more of a *succès de scandale*; but a backlash, led by women, developed against the play.

"Let us work against violence against women, but in the process let us not violate our own sensibilities," declared Grace Padilla of Quezon City in a letter to the INQUIRER.

In Malaya, columnist Carmen Guerrero Nakpil commented, "I think it must be a rude and coarse piece of work, something like a fart, that does not do justice to the cause it serves, anti-violence against women."

During the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra (PPO) season, pianist Jovianney Emmanuel Cruz rose to the challenge of playing Samuel Barber's Piano Concerto, and did justice to the difficult piece. And Ballet Philippines was in top form in "Fancy Free Ballet" by Leonard Bernstein and George Balanchine.

In Repertory Philippines' restaging of Neil Simon's "God's Favorite," the real scene-stealer was the stage design (by lead actor Miguel Faustmann, executed by Ben Zacarias).

Following a series of comic and cosmic calamities, the elegant Long Island mansion of businessman Joe Benjamin (Faustmann) is realistically transformed, by Act III, into ruins.

In the farcical "A Bedfull of Foreigners" by Dave Freeman, Rep signature young actresses Liesl Batucan (as the German *hausfrau*) and Ana Abad Santos-Bitong (as the French stripper) were a scream, a riot, accents and all. (They had a language coach.)

IAN Lomongo, Tess Jamias and Rossana Ordoñez in Tanghalang Pilipino's hilarious cast of Carlo Goldoni's "Ang Sinungaling"

Tanghalang Pilipino let its collective hair down and came out with "Ang Sinungaling" by Carlo Goldoni, set in 18th-century Venice but with the cast dressed as characters from a Chinese opera. Boboy Garovillo played the compulsive liar; and there was outrageous overacting on the part of the ensemble led by George de Jesus III.

Harsh history

The harshness of history—and the year 1899—once more intruded upon the arts with Tanghalang's important musical play, "1899: Ang Pagpatay kay Luna," by Paul Dumol and Jesse Lucas.

Among the revelations in the well-researched play are the torture and killing of Manuel Bernal, an aide of Gen. Antonio Luna, by the Del Pilar brothers (General Gregorio and Colonel Julian), hatchet men of President Emilio Aguinaldo.

To those who have read Nick Joaquin and Vivencio Jose, this is nothing new. But this is the first time, I believe, that these tragic events are dramatized on the stage.

Toward the end, composer Lucas cuts loose with a stirring anthem calling upon Filipinos to learn from the mistakes of the past.

It was a season of anniversaries. The Philippine High School for the Arts, on a slope of Mt. Makiling, celebrated its 25th anniversary, as did the equally durable Gantimpala Theater Foundation of Tony Espejo. Gantimpala came up with a wacky presentation at Country Waffles Annapolis.

Repertory Philippines marked its 35th anniversary with a bash for media and supporters at Vincent's Pub and Restaurant, and Rep talents belted out songs from recent productions. The Rep also ushered in its 65th season with "Visiting Mr. Green," a two-character play starring Miguel Faustmann and Michael Williams.

If it's Rep's 35th anniversary, it must be the 35th anniversary, too, of the Philippine Educational Theater Association (Peta), for both major organizations were founded in 1967. But the Peta front has been silent for some time now.

On June 17, phenomenal pianist Cecile Licad gave a spellbinding interpretation of Rachmaninoff's formidable Piano Concerto No. 3, without missing a beat as the CCP was plunged into darkness for a few minutes due to power failure.

"She can play it blindfolded," remarked an awed seatmate. Under conductor Rodel Colmenar, the San Miguel Philharmonic Orchestra served notice it is a musical force to contend with.

There are many events to look forward to in the last half of the year, including the new season of Tanghalang Pilipino late in July (with the restaging of Malou Jacob's serio-comic "Anatomiya ng Korupsyon"); the new season of the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra; the Aug. 14 performance of Diwa de Leon's Makiling Ensemble at the National Arts Center, Makiling; Gantimpala's musical extravaganza on July 26 at the CCP's Tanghalang Nicanor Abelardo; Lucio D. San Pedro's curiously titled *zarzuela* "Bayan, Isang Paa Na Lamang" at the CCP in August; and Rep's "Scrooge—The Musical" in November.

Brownouts separate true artists from pretenders

By Pablo Tariman
Contributor

GOOD lighting is a must in all theatrical presentations. I cannot imagine dramatic highlights in, say, "Les Miserables" or "Miss Saigon" being pulled off without the magic of good lighting.

But in a regular concert or a recital, I expect no-nonsense lighting with just the artists and a bare background. Elaborate lighting in a simple recital has a way of stealing the thunder away from the music.

One of my comic moments watching a recital was when an aspiring concert and artist manager introduced a revolving strobe light for a soprano singing the Vengeance Aria from Mozart's "Magic Flute." Amid dancing lights similar to those in a disco, the soprano must have been distracted because she had a hard time reaching the critical top notes. She was in tears at the end of the aria.

Then and there, I vowed to declare war on anyone using strobe lights in a recital.

A little over three years ago, a celebrated pianist said an artist acquaintance from New York suggested that she try a fading light at the end of Liszt's one and only piano sonata.

For all Liszt's bombastic keyboard reputation, I realized his only piano sonata was actually a beautiful piece. Instead of ending in fireworks, the last measure conjures images of life fading into the great beyond.

Awesome

We tried the fading light in the Bacolod leg of that tour with the photographer doubling as lighting designer. The result was poetically dramatic; we tried it again at the CCP and got an awe-inspiring ending.

But what happened to Cecile Licad at the CCP last month in the middle of Rachmaninoff's Third Concerto was not part of a lighting designer's script. To be sure, the blackout added to the suspense and drama, but neither pianist nor composer suggested that to achieve high drama for the piece the lights had to be turned off at the expense of the orchestra that missed five pages of orchestral music during the power interruption.

MAESTRA Mercedes Matias Santiago (right) with pupil Gia Macuja. The maestra figured in a long brownout at the Manila Grand Opera House.

PIANIST Ingrid Sala Santamaria in La Salle Lipa City: Brownout hit her performance of Tchaikovsky Concerto No. 1 in Villa Escudero.

But that brownout in the middle of a performance was not a first in the local music scene.

In the late '30s, in the middle of a performance of Bellini's "La Sonnambula" at the Manila Grand Opera House with President and Ms Manuel Quezon in the audience, a long blackout occurred and the opera that started at 8 p.m. ended at 2 a.m.

Maestra Mercedes Matias Santiago, the lead soprano singer, recalled the incident that happened in the opera's sleepwalking scene.

"I've perfected crossing that imaginary bridge in the sleepwalking scene that I knew exactly how many steps it would take to pull it off," she said. "But before I could cross the make-believe bridge with my eyes closed, as the role called for, I heard some commotion in the audience. When I slowly opened my eyes, I realized that the theater was in complete darkness. Then I heard my Italian leading man shout 'Venga! Venga! (Come down! Come down!).' I just waited at the foot of the bridge for the commotion to subside. After the last act of the opera, I received a huge lyre-shaped bouquet from President Quezon with the inscription 'Ruesenor de Filipinas' (Nightingale of the Philippines).'"

Complete darkness has a way of revealing the kind of artist you are and how adequate your preparation is

Talk of the town

In 1946, at the UST Gym after his graduation from the UP College of Music, pianist Regalado Jose was performing Chopin's Polonaise in A Flat Major when an unscheduled blackout occurred. He didn't stop and finished the entire piece in the dark. The following day, he was the talk of Manila's music lovers and was on the front pages of several newspapers a day later.

The other week at Villa Escudero, while pianist Ingrid Sala Santamaria was playing Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No. 1 with pianist Reynaldo Reyes on the second piano, a brief brownout occurred during the second movement and again toward the last movement.

Santamaria took it all in stride but silently wished, "Not complete darkness please! All I need is a glimmer of light to finish this concerto." She did with all the notes intact.

One way or the other, brownouts, by plunging you into complete darkness, have a way of revealing the kind of artist you are and how adequate your preparation is. Pianists are, of course, in a better position to cope with this problem compared with, say, singers (it would be ridiculous to continue singing art songs or arias a cappella in the dark) or dancers (a Black Swan completing 32 fouettes in the dark would be a fool).

I don't know if the report is true that after that Rachmaninoff brownout at the CCP, young pianists have started to practice with their eyes closed.

Here and there

Due to inclement weather, the Northern Luzon Concerto Journey tour of pianists Ingrid Sala Santamaria and Reynaldo Reyes has been postponed to January next year. Meanwhile, the two pianists will be the featured guests of the Rotary Club of Makati at the Manila Mandarin Hotel ballroom on Aug. 1. The unique musical offering will also feature interactive annotations by the artists. For inquiries, call Amy at 743-3474.

For the 25th foundation anniversary of the Philippine High School for the Arts (PHSA), the Anino Shadowplay Collective staged last July 17 its first full-length shadow play "Ibalon," based on the Bikolano folk epic. The shadow play was written by Kerima Tariman (PHSA Batch '96) and Biboy Royong (PHSA Batch '94) with music by Melecio Yamono (PHSA Batch '97). The play was also staged at the First International Festival of Shadow Theater in Greece last year. The other anniversary attractions are the performance of the Makiling Ensemble (Aug. 14), the visual arts alumni exhibit at the GSIS Gallery (Sept. 7) and the fourth Ibarang Arts Festival in Feb. 2003. For inquiries, e-mail phsa@ laguna.net.

The choral concert not to be missed tonight is the performance of the Kammerchor Stuttgart at the Philamlife Theater. The ensemble's repertoire includes a cappella literature of the 19th- and early 20th-century, and the interpretation of early and contemporary music as well as the great oratorios. For inquiries, call 435-6552.

THE KAMMERCHOR Stuttgart Choir

AUDIE Gemora as Aslan the Lion

'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe' returns

RENOWNED British author C.S. Lewis' "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe" has long delighted readers of all ages since it was written in the early 1950s.

Since then, the tale of four children Peter, Susan, Edmund and Lucy—who stumble into a wardrobe and find themselves in the wondrous land of Narnia—has had numerous theatrical adaptations, including a recent production by the Royal Shakespeare Company in London. But C.S. Lewis' own stepson, Douglas Gresham, has acknowledged that the Trumpets version is one of the best and is his personal favorite.

This year, Trumpets brings back the "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe" by librettists Jaime del Mundo and Luna Grino-Inocian and composer Lito Villareal.

Playing the four children are Franco Mabanta, Miguel Rivera and Paolo Valenciano as Peter; Camille Cabrera, Tanya Manalang and Crisel Consunji as Susan; Sam Concepcion, Javvy Ortega and Inaki Ting as Edmund; and Moreen Guese, Cheska Ortega and Alexa Ortega as Lucy. Audie Gemora reprises his role as the Great Lion, Aslan.

The play opens opens at the Meralco Theater on Aug. 2. Call Trumpets at 633-5010.

FRANCO Mabanta, Crisel Consunji, Sam Concepcion and Alexa Ortega

McEwan's book of the unforgiven

Atonement
By Ian McEwan
Nan A. Talese, New York, 2001
351 pages

By Ruel S. De Vera

IT has grown unbearably hot in the English countryside in 1935 when a host of visitors descends upon the Tallis household. While father Jack is away on business and mother Emily is preparing for the guests, among them her son Leon, the two Tallis sisters are engaging in their own secret business.

REVIEW

The youngest, 13-year-old Briony, aspires to be a writer and is getting ready to stage a play for Leon, her imagination running wild and strong. The 16-year-old Cecilia, Cambridge-educated and more mature, is falling in love with their neighbor, Robbie Turner.

The visitors arrive. Among them are chocolate factory owner Paul Marshall and a trio of Tallis cousins, teenager Lola and her miserable younger brothers. A set of unfortunate and fortunate events ensues.

Robbie sends the wrong draft of a love letter to Cecilia through the nosey Briony. Briony witnesses several covert meetings between Robbie and her sister. Someone attacks Lola. And Briony believes she knows who did it—or does she?

Set amid the backdrop of the encroaching World War II, these are the underpinning of Ian McEwan's excellent ninth book, "Atonement." The rich, intricate prose that characterized his 1998 Booker Prize-winning novel "Amsterdam" is back in full bloom in this book.

It is a lovely and unspeakably sad book about the wages of loving and imagining in a time approaching war.

Tragic confluence

When Briony accuses Robbie of the crime, it sets into action a tragic confluence of occurrences that will haunt all of them, even those merely peripheral to that evening's secrets. While Robbie is incarcerated, Cecilia cuts herself off from her family and waits for her lover's release.

Meanwhile, Briony begins to realize what has really happened and begins the process of torturing herself, writing about it, and also of seeking atonement—all of them incredibly difficult experiences.

What makes "Atonement" so haunting is that all but a few of the book's scenes of consummation happen beyond the page, leaving the reader to seethe at the unseen events.

"Atonement" jumps forward to the retreat at Dunkirk where Robbie fights for his life. Meanwhile, Cecilia has become a nurse and Briony nears the point of revelation. All of them are still being chased by the ghosts of that warm 1935 night.

Briony is grievously hurt by the rift between her and Cecilia: "In the night when Cecilia came to rescue her from a nightmare and take her into her own bed. Those were the words she used. Come back. It was only a bad dream. Briony, come back. How easily this unthinking family love is forgotten."

McEwan expertly juxtaposes Briony's quest to become a writer with all of the characters' search for truth and, more importantly, vindication. McEwan deliciously utilizes Briony's fiction as the font of truth, in ingenious ways that won't become evident until the very end of the book. That smart twist is one of the book's true turning points and, by itself, is also a fascinating and fitting portrait of what writing drawn from real experiences is about.

As frustrating as she is, Briony is "Atonement's" heart, its tragic propellant, and McEwan succeeds by creating a protagonist whom the readers may not be sympathetic to yet remain entranced by. The two lovers, Robbie and Cecilia, are the novel's two poles, keeping "Atonement" perfectly balanced between romance and death, in a world where lovers survive. Or do they?

Intoxicatingly thoughtful

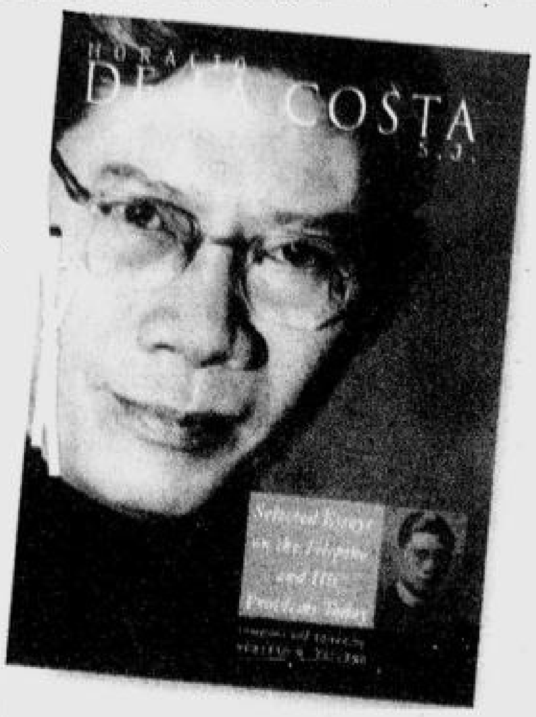
The real enchantment in "Atonement" is McEwan's writing: intricate, intoxicatingly thoughtful and brimming with literary taste, capable of turning the most mundane moment into an unforgettable scene.

As Robbie trudges to Dunkirk, "he had comfort in a pretense, and a rhythm at least for his feet. He walked/ across/ the land/ until/ he came/ to the same. A hexameter. Five iambs and an anapest was the beat he tramped to now."

And in this particularly delicate passage, McEwan speaks of those fragile days for Cecilia, and for all of them: "The clarity of everything she saw or touched was certainly not prompted by the fresh beginnings and abundance of early summer; it was an inflamed awareness of an approaching conclusion, of events converging on an end point. These were the last days, she felt, and they would shine in the memory in a particular way."

"Atonement" is a deceptively panoramic novel of love and war, the forgiven and the unforgiven, the delight and the danger of fiction. In pursuing, to the very end, the Tallis sisters and the unsaid burden they carried, Ian McEwan has crafted one of the most beautifully bittersweet novels in recent history, one that explains that the road to forgiveness never really ends.

Available in hardcover at PowerBooks



THE WRITINGS of the late Horacio de la Costa, S.J., brilliant scholar and author of several history books including "Jesuits in the Philippines," which was published by the Harvard University Press, are now collected in four volumes. Published by the 2B3C Foundation Inc., composed of Ateneo de Manila high school alumni, are: "Horacio de la Costa, S.J.: Selected Writings of His Youth 1927-1945 and a Brief Biographical Background," "Selected Essays on The Filipino and His Problems Today," "Selected Studies in Philippine Colonial History," and "Selected Homilies and Religious Reflections." Call 426-6001 local 4083.

Tanlayco delivers Jaka lecture

MILAGROS Tanlayco, a longtime professor of literature at the University of Santo Tomas and mentor to some of the country's top writers and educators, will deliver the 2002 Jaka Professorial Chair Lecture tomorrow at 9 a.m. at the audiovisual room of the UST Faculty of Arts and Letters.

In her lecture, "Southeast Asian Literature: Gliding into the Mainstream," Tanlayco will tackle recent scholarship on Southeast Asian literature and pedagogical strategies and techniques to enhance its appreciation in Philippine classrooms.

Tanlayco heads the Council of Chairpersons of Departments of English in the Philippines.

Call for contributions to Tomas

THE CENTER for Creative Writing and Studies of the University of Santo Tomas is accepting contributions to the sixth issue of Tomas, official literary journal of the university.

Poetry, fiction, essays and one-act plays, in English or Filipino, are welcome.

Materials must be submitted both in hardcopy and encoded in a clean diskette, in Rich Text Format of MS Word. The materials will only be returned if sent with a self-addressed, stamped envelope. All care will be taken, but no responsibility will be assumed in case of loss.

Deadline is on Aug. 15. Issue editors are Cirilo F. Bautista and Eric Melendez.

Forward all contributions with a short bio-data to the UST Center for Creative Writing and Studies, G/F St. Raymund's Building, UST, España, Manila. Call 731-3101 local 8281 or e-mail blunt 802@yahoo.com.

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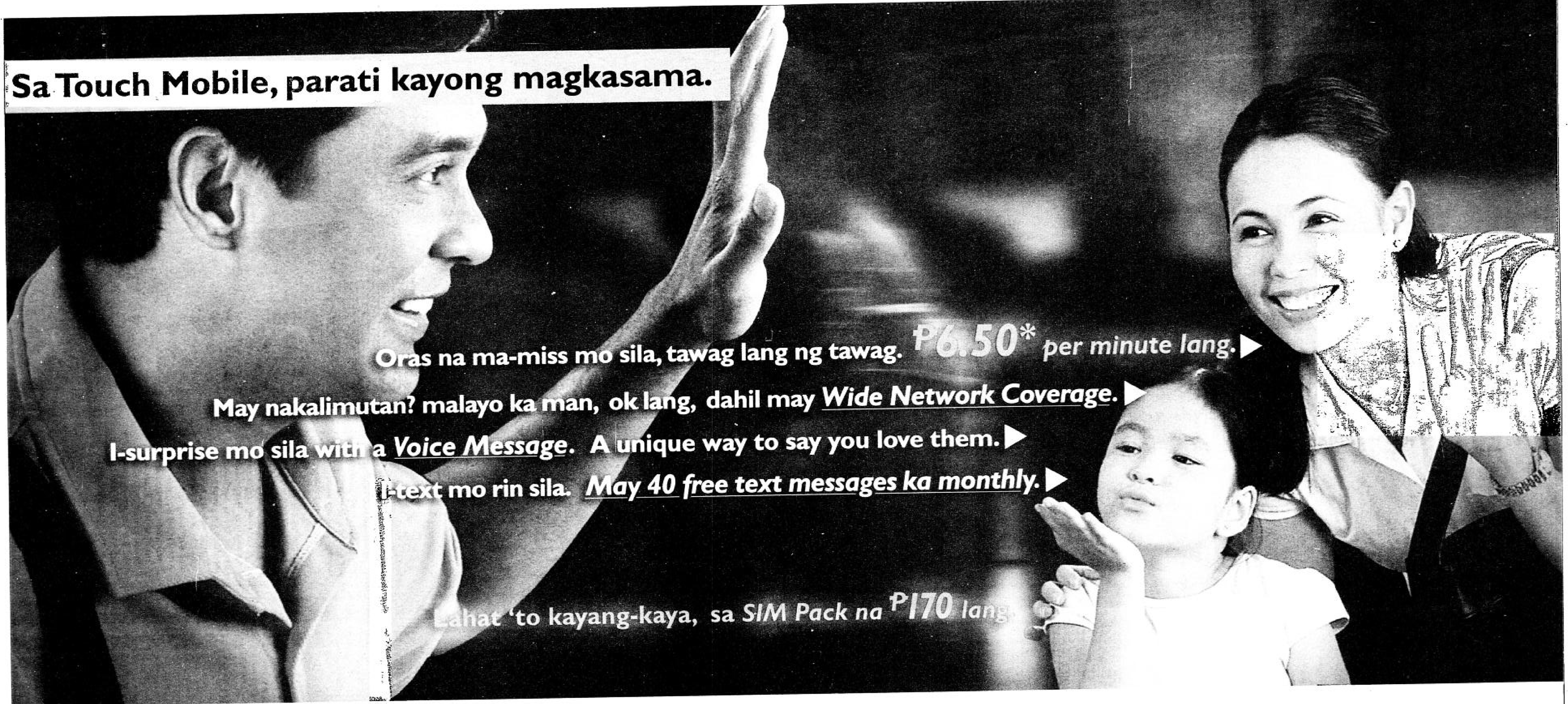
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